Hafa Adai!

SUNDAY

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Should PSS put off the start of classes to mid-September when the power situation is expected to stabilize?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

16 DAYS until Sept. 16, when Aggreko generators are to start working

INSIDE

Generators
Don't be left in the dark. Choose a backup power system before the next blackout.

GOOD HOUSEKEEPING... Page 10

VP Choice
Republican presidential candidate John McCain has chosen a little-known female governor as his running mate.

NATION...Page 18

50th B'day
Michael Jackson marked a personal milestone Friday: his 50th birthday.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 22

PSS principals ready to deal with power outages. **PAGE 2**
Saipan robbers continue to steal electronics. **PAGE 3**

Low water pressure

Water main break spills 600,000-plus gallons

By JAYVEE VALLEJERA
editor@saipantribune.com
EDITOR

Add the lack of water to the lack of power and other miseries plaguing Saipan these days.

A water main break in Sadog Tasi Friday afternoon spilled thousands of gallons of water from the Capital Hill tank, resulting in significant and wide-ranging low pressure for most of the island.

Although the break has already been repaired, it will take some time before water pressure will stabilize, according to Bruce Megarr, deputy director for the Water and Sewer Division at the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

See LOW on Page 4

Lawyer outlines options for guest workers after June 1

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A Guam-based expert on U.S. immigration laws and regulations met with guest workers of different nationalities yesterday to talk about several options for them to remain on Saipan after U.S. Immigration officials take charge in June next year.

In an open forum at the Saipan Community Church, lawyer Nelson J. Xu of L.A. Baumann & Associates emphasized that alien workers must have a legitimate reason to stay to be able to convince Immigration officials to let one stay on the islands.

See OPTIONS on Page 4

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Lawyer Nelson J. Xu of the Guam-based L.A. Baumann & Associates talks to nonresident workers during a forum on CNMI Immigration Reform and Non-Immigrant Visa at Saipan Community Church in Susupe Saturday afternoon.

PACIFICA ARTS EXHIBIT JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Paintings and traditional Carolinian and Chamorro craft are displayed during the Annual CNMI Cultural Heritage and Arts Pacifica Exhibit at the Joeten Motors showroom in San Jose Saturday. The Arts Pacifica Exhibit also features artwork from the Pacific islands such as Micronesia, Polynesia, and Melanesia and will run until Sept. 30.

CUC lowers September power rates

By KRISTI EATON
Kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Island residents have one thing to look forward to when it comes to power: lower rates.

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is lowering the fluctuating electric power rates by 5 cents for the month of September.

RELATED NEWS
Load shedding schedule. **PAGE 2**

Under the new rates, customers will pay 36.2 cents for fluctuating electric fuel rates and 1.6 cents for electric non-fuel rates, for a total of 37.8 cents per kWh for the first 500 kWh.

See LOWER on Page 4

Around the CNMI

PSS principals ready to deal with power outages

By KRISTI EATON
kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Principals from the Public School System say they are ready to start school on Sept. 8, despite the constant power outages across the island.

Christine Tudela Masga, acting Hopwood Jr. High School principal, said the power outages will be a challenge to deal with, but thinks it is time for the students to return to school.

"Let's go for it," she said. "Whether we face it or not, we can't wait on the government."

On Thursday, the Board of Education voted to keep the start of classes on Sept. 8.

Gov. Benigno Fitial had expressed concern about starting school without reliable power, and had asked board chair Lucy Blanco-Maratita to consider pushing back the start of school for two weeks, or until there was reliable power.

Tudela Masga admits it will be hot, but said the administrators are planning outdoor activities that tie in academics for the kids when there are extended outages.

PSS Commissioner Rita Sablan said the district is procuring generators for every school so that water can run to the bathrooms and the cafeterias.

San Antonio Elementary Principal Katrina S. Lizama said the students are used to surviving the heat because the school saved money on utilities last year by turning off the air conditioner in the mornings. The school has a generator to pump water to the bathrooms.

"They're already adjusted," she said.

The students would rather start school on time without power than extend the school year, she added.

Although some schools release the students during extended outages, Lynette Villagomez, principal at William S. Reyes Elementary, said that is not an option at WSR.

"When we let them out they will be unsupervised," she said. "We keep them here so they aren't out on the streets."

Teachers often take the kids out to sit under the trees to continue classroom instruction, Villagomez said.

"It's really making sure we know when the power goes out so the teachers can plan accordingly," she added.

Scott Norman, principal at Calvary Christian Academy, which started three weeks ago, said he allows his students to carry handheld fans during school in order to try to keep cool.

"We're not allowing [the lack of power] to hinder expectations," Norman said. "It's not comfortable, but they're learning and we're making sure they're learning."

In order for students to arrive at school with a positive attitude, "every faculty member needs to walk in their with a positive attitude despite CUC," he said.

LOAD SHEDDING SCHEDULE

Editor's Note: The following schedule is for Aug. 30 through Sept. 5, 2008.

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. said that, due to ongoing mechanical repairs of the crankpin bearings on Engine 2, the load shedding schedule for the upcoming week has been amended to reflect the available power supply. Mechanical repairs on Engine 8 was to be completed by Friday; however, due additional unanticipated repairs, the completion time will not be until today. Currently, engines 3 and 6 are the only two units operational at Power Plant 1. CUC apologizes for any inconvenience the load shedding schedule has imposed on the community and will continue to work diligently to resolve the problem.

8:00 a.m.-11 a.m.Feeder-1: Second Partial
Upper Navy Hill
Upper MIHA
99 Cent store

Feeder-2: Entire Grid
Portions of Lower Base, CPA (Seaport), Beach Road Garapan south to San Jose intersection

Feeder-7: Entire Grid
Lower Base industrial area, north to Tanapag, Achugao, San Roque, As Matuis and Marpi

11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
Feeder-3: Second partial
Upper Gualo Rai
Taro Sue

Kiya-1: Entire Grid
As Terlaje, NMC, Portions of Fina Sisu, San Vicente to Botanical Garden, Lower Dandan Homestead, Upper Dandan Homestead, Isley Field

Kiya-4: Entire Grid
Chalan Kiya, San Jose, Oleai, Susupe, Mount Carmel and south to portions of Chalan Kanoa

2:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.
Feeder-1: Second Partial

Feeder-1: Second Partial
Upper Navy Hill
Upper MIHA
99 Cent store

Feeder-2: Entire Grid
Portions of Lower Base, CPA (Seaport), Beach Road Garapan south to San Jose intersection

Feeder-7: Entire Grid
Lower Base industrial area, north to Tanapag, Achugao, San Roque, As Matuis and Marpi

5:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.
Feeder-3: Second partial
Upper Gualo Rai
Taro Sue

Kiya-1: Entire Grid
As Terlaje, NMC, Portions of Fina Sisu, San Vicente to Botanical Garden, Lower Dandan Homestead, Upper Dandan Homestead, Isley Field

Kiya-4: Entire Grid
Chalan Kiya, San Jose, Oleai, Susupe, Mount Carmel and south to portions of Chalan Kanoa

8:00 p.m.-11:00 p.m.
Feeder-4: Entire Grid
Portions of Lower Base, Sadog Tasi, Capital Hill, Kagman and portions of Papago (Botanical Garden)

Kiya-2: Entire Grid
As Lito, Koblerville, As Gonno, San Antonio and Afetnas, portions of Fina Sisu

11:00 a.m.-2:00 am
Feeder-3: Second partial
Upper Gualo Rai
Taro Sue

Kiya 1: Entire Grid
As Terlaje, NMC, Portions of Fina Sisu, San Vicente to Botanical Garden, Lower Dandan Homestead, Upper Dandan Homestead, Isley Field

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Kiya-2: Entire Grid
As Lito, Koblerville, As Gonno, San Antonio, Afetnas, portions of Fina Sisu

CUC will try to keep to this contingent schedule. It may, however, be modified in future public notices. In addition, the schedule may also be altered to address particular emergencies when necessary. ***(CUC)***

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Announcement - Invitation for Bid
NMC No.: IFB 08-004

PURCHASE OF THREE (3) NEW AUTOMOBILES

The Northern Marianas College Cooperative Research, Education, and Extension Services Department (CREES) is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the procurement of three (3) new automobile vehicles to be delivered on or before September 30th, 2008. A bidder does not have to submit a bid proposal for all vehicles. In order to be considered for this transaction, all persons, firms or corporations responding to this request must provide information requested in the specifications and scope of work. Any bid received that does not provide the requested information may be rejected. Bids rejected will not be returned to the owner, but the owner will be notified.

Due Date/Time: **Monday, September 15th, 2008 10:00 a.m.**
PUBLIC BID OPENING: **Monday, September 15th, 2008 at 10:30 a.m.**

Specifications and Scope of Work may be picked up at the NMC Procurement Office, Bldg. L, 2nd Floor, As Terlaje Campus, Saipan, Monday to Friday between the hours of 8: 30-11:30 a.m. and 1:00-4:30 p.m.

Bid Packages are due Monday, September 15th, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. Saipan time at the Northern Marianas College, As Terlaje Campus, Procurement Office, Bldg. L 2nd, Floor. Bidding procedures shall be in compliance with NMC Procurement Regulations. In accordance with Public Laws 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, **"Local Business Preference" is not available to local bidders** in this procurement. This procurement is funded, wholly, from federal sources. For bidders located **outside of the CNMI**: You may request a copy of the Invitation for Bid via fax (670) 235-7601 or e-mail to Duane R.T. Sablan (duanes@nmcnet.edu)

All bidders are hereby notified that the Northern Marianas College and CNMI Government will affirmatively insure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, women and small business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit proposals and will not be discriminated against on grounds of race, color, national origin, political affiliation, creed, sex, religion, age, familial status, and disability status.

This solicitation does not constitute an offer and does not obligate the College in any way. The NMC reserves the right to reject any and/or all proposals for any reason and waive any defect in said proposals, or cancel in part or its entirety this RFP, if it deems, in its sole discretion, it is in the best interest of the College. All costs incurred by the bidder to prepare a response this solicitation and subsequent inquiries shall be borne by the bidder. All submittals shall become the property of NMC and will not be returned.

Approved by the following:

/ss/Duane R.T. Sablan
NMC, Acting Procurement Officer

/ss/Ross S. Manglona
Director, NMC CREES

Saipan robbers continue to steal electronics

By KRISTI EATON
kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Despite the recent capture of three burglars reportedly responsible for 13 break-ins on island, robbers using similar methods continue to strike.

Gualo Rai resident Irene Maliaman and her husband, Alfred, said two laptops and two digital cameras were stolen from their apartment on Aug. 24.

"They came through the window," Irene said. "You can still see the footprints on the bed."

Police captured on Aug. 22 three men, ages 19 to 22 years old, who admitted being responsible for 13 thefts and burglaries on Capital Hill, in As Gonno, Papago and Kagman. The men would allegedly monitor a home and wait for the owners to leave before breaking in by kicking in the front door or entering through a window screen and exiting the same way. The incidents occurred during the day, usually after lunch to mid-afternoon. The three men stole electronics items, such as iPods, DVDs, and TVs from homes, as well as portable generators from homes and restaurants before selling them on the street, investigators said.

Irene Maliaman said she believes she knows who the robber is because he stopped by her apartment earlier in the day and stopped by in May.

"He's just a boy," she said. "He looks very innocent. He looks like a street boy."

On Aug. 24, the boy came to the door of the Maliamans' apartment and asked if Irene would like to buy the amplifier he was carrying. She offered to take him to the church where she works to see if it was something the church was in need of. A fellow church member told her that it looked as if the amplifier might be stolen, she said.

"One guy said, 'maybe that is a hot item,'" she said.

Irene said she took the boy back to her apartment, and he departed, but later when she arrived home from a walk about 5:45 pm, she noticed the window had been opened and her items stolen. Police arrived about 30 minutes later.

The boy is known around the area, Irene said.

The Maliamans said they want to appeal to the public to be on the lookout for their electronics at pawnshops, which they call on a regular basis asking about the items.

"We couldn't sleep because all my work is in the laptop, everything for two years," Irene said.

One of the computers is a Toshiba with the serial number 2073572303980 that was bought last year. The other one is a secondhand silver Gateway laptop with the words, "Washington State," engraved. The digital cameras are a black Nikon and a pink Sanyo.

The couple had to buy a new laptop last week to continue their work, Irene said.

Unless something drastic is done, the thieves will continue, she said.

"I think it's making them more confident," she said.

Solomons official abducted, badly beaten

Makili outspoken opponent of dolphin trade

HONIARA, Solomon Islands (Solomon Times/PIR)—On Tuesday, Aug. 19, at about 8:30pm, City Councilor Lawrence Makili was abducted from his home in Honiara, Solomon Islands, by eight men in two cars.

He was then driven a few kilometers out of town when the thugs beat him up and tried to kill him.

Makili fought back which was said to have saved his life. He sustained a broken right arm, fractured ribs, fractured, facial bone, and several other injuries.

Makili has been an outspoken dolphin protector, trying to stop the traffic in captive dolphins in the Solomon Islands.

There are currently five different dolphin capture teams operating in the Solomon Islands.

"Anyone of them could be responsible for this," stated Richard O'Barry, director of Save Japan Dolphins Coalition.

Mark Berman of Earth Island Institute said, "Lawrence Makili was a victim of attempted murder, simply for trying to help his country and their wild dolphin population. We will be returning to the Solomon Islands to do everything we can to find out who is responsible and bring them to justice."

At this time, the identities and motivations of the attackers are unclear and no arrests have been made regarding the incident.

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20 artists join Arts Pacifica Fair

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A total of 20 artists in the CNMI have joined this year's Cultural Heritage and Arts Pacifica Exhibit at the Joeten Motors Co.'s Nissan showcase room, which opened to the public yesterday.

The works of the artists, two each from Tinian and Rota and the rest from Saipan, are on display either for sale or for art's sake.

Artworks on display include oil painting by Lee Jung Ae, Rino Obar, Benjamin Ganapin, Joe Kani, Jackson Mendiola, Leung Kung, Ireneo David, Dindo Mercene, Eli Espinas, Eric Tubera and Nhorleen Bitco.

Mendiola is also a sand painter while Yamada Poland and Jose Ayuyu are woodcarvers. Others are Emiliana Bugarin (seed necklace earrings), Mark Robertson (acrylic), Robert hunter (acrylic), Jian Dong He (photography), Gregory Elliott (watercolor) and Luis Taitano (seashell carving),

Organizers said that Isaac Anderson, who submitted his artwork on paper, is the youngest participant, being in grade school.

The exhibit will run from Aug. 30 to Sept. 30 and is open from 8am to 6pm on Mondays through Fridays and from 8am to 12pm on Saturdays.

The paintings' prices range from as high as $950 and $400, to as low as $250 to $5. Other crafts like seed earrings and necklaces cost $3.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Paintings and traditional Carolinian and Chamorro craft are displayed during the Annual CNMI Cultural Heritage and Arts Pacifica Exhibit at the Joeten Motors Building showroom in San Jose Saturday.

New acting Secretary of Department of Community and Cultural Affairs Cecilia Celes, center front row, is joined by Council of Arts and Culture new executive director Romana Rebuenog and staff Rosalin Weaver and Arts Coordinator Lucille T. Ayuyu. Joeten Motors sales consultants Joseph Cabrera and Mona Mengloi and daughter Mary-Frances Tenorio are also in the photo at the opening yesterday of the Cultural Heritage and Arts Pacifica Exhibit at the Joeten Motors Company's Nissan showcase room.

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

Some depict war in the olden days, children's faces, traditional dances and costumes, images of the underwater world and creatures, and animals.

Other artwork are made of bamboo, sea shells, coconut shells and other materials locally available.

Woman alone among Solomons candidates

HONIARA, Solomon Islands (Solomon Star/PIR)—At the close of nominations for the East Honiara by-elections Tuesday, Delma Nori found herself up against 25 male contenders.

But Ms. Nori is not new to such contest.

In fact, this would be her third time round to contest the national elections. Previously, she contested the Renbel and Central Honiara seats. She lost on both occasions.

This time though, she's banking on the support of women and youth.

"A home is only complete and balance if there's a mother," she said yesterday. "I want to be that mother in our national home—the parliament," Nori said.

She said she's taking the interest of women, youths and children to parliament. "For the last 30 years, our parliament was occupied by men alone.

"But look at our situation today, people are struggling to survive. Let's put some women up there because our nation needs men and women to work together," she said.

Nori promised women of East Honiara will get 50 percent of the Rural Constituency Development Fund if she gets into parliament.

The by-elections for East Honiara and Lau Baelelea will be held on September 23.

A total of 43 candidates will contest the two by-elections.

Tonga govt confiscates sea cucumbers

NUKUALOFA, Tonga (Radio Tonga News/PIR)—Police and officers from the Fisheries Department last night confiscated sea cucumbers from the MV Olovaha after it was determined that the individual that brought them via the MV Olovaha did not have a license to fish for sea cucumbers nor to sell them. The fisheries department said the sea cucumbers weighed about 100 kilograms and were fished and dried by the person responsible on Niuatoputapu before bringing it to Tongatapu via the MV Olovaha.

There were 4 different types of sea cucumbers that were contained in the confiscated cargo including a class of sea cucumbers that are still under a fishing ban. The other 3 types that were confiscated were undersized according to the fishing regulations concerning sea cucumbers.

The fisheries department said no individual or company on Niuatoputapu had a license to fish for sea cucumbers.

The Police are now looking for the foreigner who was alleged to have brought in the sea cucumbers.

Meanwhile, the department reveals that the regulations regarding the licensing of all fishermen using fishing nets is yet to come into force while they work on administrative issues.

Low water pressure in most of Saipan

From Page 1

He said a local contractor was compacting a road along the cement line in the area when the incident happened, affecting an 8-inch transmission main.

"The incident happened around 4pm [Friday]. They [contractor] responded in a timely manner, and immediately reported the incident to CUC," said Megarr.

The water main was isolated within 45 minutes and was fixed within three hours, Megarr added.

The break, however, resulted in the loss of about two-thirds of the water in the Sadog Tasi tank, or more than 600,000 gallons of water.

"When you are pushing 30 to 40 pounds per square inch of pressurized water through a broken 8-inch main, you're moving a lot of water," Megarr said.

When asked how soon the water pressure will stabilize, he said this would depend on several factors.

"It is dependent on numerous factors, power being one of them. We also have a compromised drive in the main well in the area. Also, the tank has to be filled up. Only then can we start releasing the water to the public," he said.

Megarr said the incident may have also compromised the cleanliness of the water.

"We will be doing aggressive biological monitoring of the lines to make sure that contamination does not occur but, given the reduction in pressure, people should not consume the water without boiling it first," he added.

This incident is on top of other problems the water production is experiencing, mainly due to the ongoing work at the power plant.

"[Due] to the unavoidable power reduction, other major water wells have been affected, primarily Isley Field in the airport where we have 45 percent of our water wells, producing about 50 percent of the water on island," he said.

"We've been forced to curtail water production in those areas, producing less water for the southern portion of the island. As such, the same caution applies regarding potability," Megarr added. This means people must boil the water first before using them for food or drinking.

Not everything is bleak, though. CUC's water division recently brought online five additional generators, powering 15 major wells and boosters, ensuring that places like Kagman and Donni Springs have increased supply compared to other areas, Megarr said.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
Happy birthday greetings go out to Jasmine Lieto who will be turning 15 years old today, Aug. 31. Greetings come from Auntie Vera Basa and Uncle Robert Lieto.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Options for guest workers outlined in forum

From Page 1

A woman asked if could she still stay on Saipan while looking for another employer, in case her contract expires after June 1.

Xu quipped: "Are you married? I ask this because it's the easiest way and it's one of the options."

"But seriously, you must have a legitimate reason to stay. If your contract will expire beyond June 1, that's fine. And if you would be able to renew the contract, it's even better," he said.

Xu also stated that anyone who wants to enter Guam from Saipan would have to go to the U.S. Embassy in their mother country because "guest workers don't have the chance to work in Guam after June 1, 2009."

Xu also talked about visas, green cards, fees and application procedures.

Xu's law firm deals with different immigration procedures such as exemption of H-visa limitations, investor visa, Commonwealth transnational workers, removal of aliens, registration, employment authorization, overstay, Guam and CNMI waiver programs, and immigrant visa option, among others.

The forum on the CNMI Immigration Reform and Non-Immigrant Visa was organized by the United Workers Movement led by its president, Irene Tantiado.

Tantiado said Xu's company also conducted a similar seminar here in July but they charged participants in that seminar.

This time, she said, Xu gave his services for free, except for the plane ticket, which was paid for by several organizations.

At the forum, the Philippine Consulate General set up a booth for Overseas Workers Welfare Administration membership application and renewal.

Among those who participated in the forum were guest workers from Thailand, Korea, China, Bangladesh and the Philippines.

"This forum is primarily to educate the public about the available options they could avail of," Tantiado said.

Lower power rates in September

From Page 1

Last month, customers were paying an all time high for fuel at 42.9 cents per kWh for the first 500 kWh.

For customers using 501 to 1,000 kWh, they will be assessed 6.6 cents for electric non-fuel rates and 36.2 cents for fluctuating fuel rates, for a total of 42.8 cents per kWh.

Those using between 1,001 to 2,000 kWh, will be charged 8.6 cents for electric non-fuel rates and 36.2 cents for fluctuating electric fuel rates, for a total of 44.8 cents per kWh.

Residential customers using more than 2,000 kWh will be assessed 12.7 cents for electric non-fuel rates and 36.2 cents for fluctuating electric fuel rates, for a total of 48.9 cents per kWh.

These are on top of the fixed customer monthly charges of $5.60 that all residential customers will be paying.

Commercial businesses will pay 8.6 cents in electric non-fuel rates and 36.2 cents for fluctuating electric fuel rates, for a total of 44.8 cents per kWh. Businesses are also required to pay $7.67 in monthly customer charges.

CUC first revised its power rates on May 3, 2008, more than doubling the previous rates.

Celes is new acting Secretary for DCCA

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The executive director of the Council for Arts and Culture is now the new acting Secretary of the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs.

Cecilia Taitano Celes, who had been the CAC executive director since 2006, was promoted by the Fitial administration on Thursday Aug. 28.

In an interview with *Saipan Tribune*, Celes said she is excited about her new job because "I'm confident with the elite team in the DCCA."

"They got me busy on my first two days and here on weekend I'm still working but it's okay because we really have a lot of things that we need to do," said Celes at the opening day yesterday of the month-long Cultural Heritage and Arts Pacifica Exhibit.

Organized annually by the CAC, this year's exhibit is being held at the Joeten Motors Co.'s Nissan showroom along Beach Road in San Jose, Saipan.

Celes replaced former DCCA Secretary Melvin O. Faisao. Romana Rebuenog has been appointed to take over Celes' post as executive director for CAC.

Asked about her new job and the challenges ahead, Celes said she feels good about it and loves the job so much "because if you are passionate about something, you can carry on your responsibilities and provide service to the public as it should be."

"I'm here to provide support and guidance in every department and make sure that we will be able to work together and maximize those services to the community," Celes said.

September is Substance Abuse Prevention, Treatment Awareness Month

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial signed Friday a proclamation declaring September as Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Awareness Month, dubbed "SAPTember," in a formal ceremony at the Commonwealth Health Center.

Fitial called on all residents, government agencies, public and private institutions, businesses and schools to work together in raising awareness and understanding of substance abuse.

Department of Public Health officials led by Secretary Kevin Joseph Villagomez and members of the private sector that included Tan Holdings Corp. president Jerry Tan, were present to witness the ceremony.

Fitial said the annual celebration is an avenue for the community to focus on providing education and promoting public awareness and understanding on the impact of substance abuse and to strengthen prevention, treatment and recovery.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Gov. Benigno R. Fitial signs a proclamation declaring the month of September as Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Awareness Month.

Fitial said the CNMI employs a variety of resources to bring about a positive change that promotes healthier lifestyles for everyone in the community, alongside effective prevention and treatment efforts for substance abuse, strong community support, and continued collaboration among partner agencies.

"This is a refreshed opportunity to recognize and experience the societal benefits of effective substance abuse prevention, treatment, and recovery. Let our community flourish with the influences of effective education in the home by increasing family protective factors to prevent our youth from early substance abuse," Fitial said.

He urged people to rise above tribulations to continue nurturing the growth of education and awareness, the promotion of substance abuse prevention, treatment, and recovery, as "we strengthen protective factors that will foster healthier generations to come."

Fitial noted that family, friends, colleagues play vital roles in the lives of those on the road to recovery. "We shall recognize the valiant efforts of people who are in recovery from substance abuse and take notice of the financial and human costs associated with such addictions and disorders, which affects not only certain individuals, but their families and the larger community."

"Each and every one of us can help sound this year's theme—'Join the Voices for Recovery: Real People, Real Recovery'—passionately expanding our knowledge of investing in prevention and treatment, as the backbone of real success for those who enter effective recovery."

Next month's activities will be participated in by U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration, the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy, the CNMI Department of Public Health, the Community Guidance Center, the Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition, all key stakeholders, and community members.

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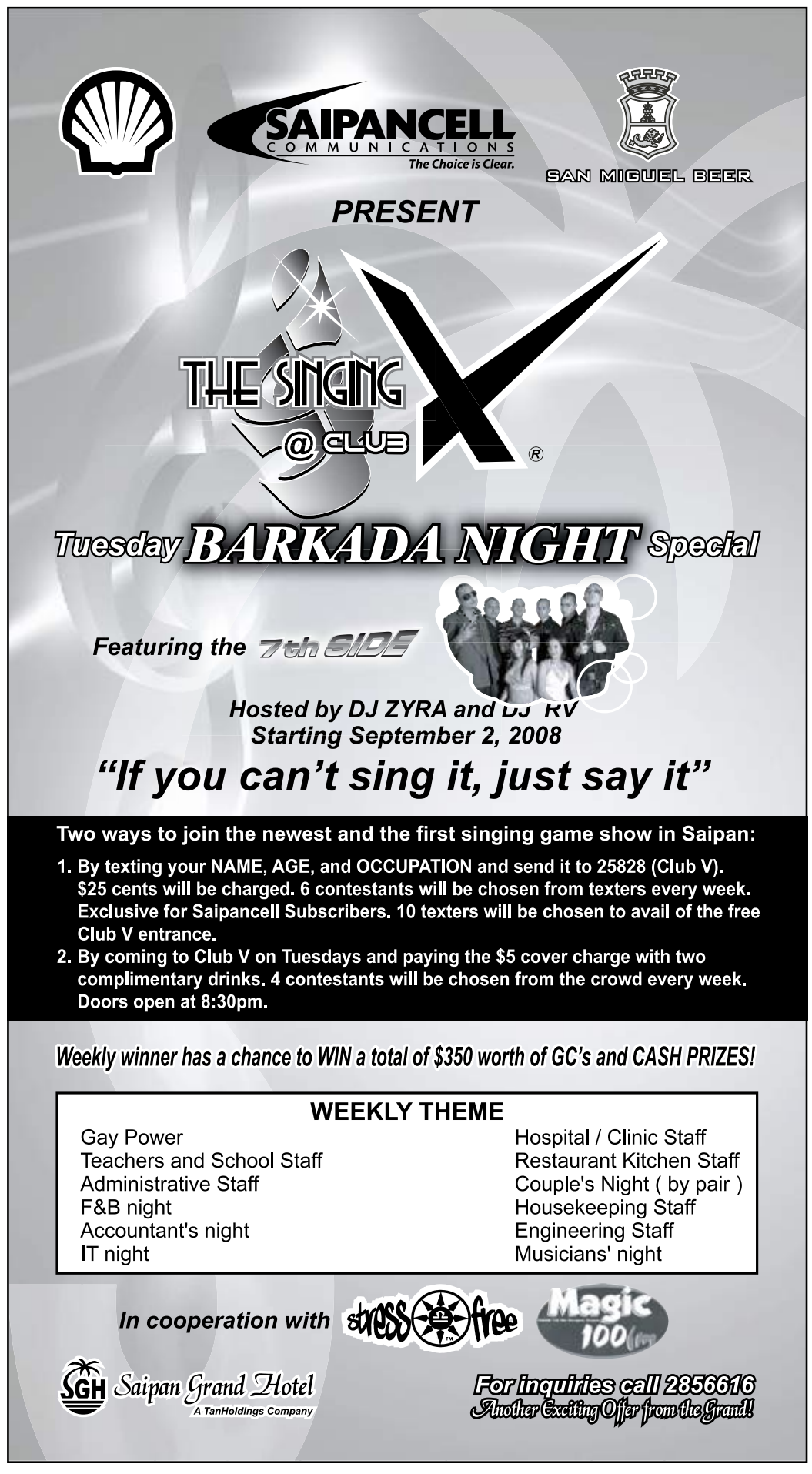
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Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

Obama's challenge

In his speech accepting the Democratic nomination for president, Barack Obama had to negotiate a fine line. The throng in Denver's football stadium was eagerly awaiting the eloquence and idealism that propelled him to the pinnacle of national politics. At the same time, he had to counter the Republicans' caricature of those qualities as nothing more than the callow charisma of a political rock star. That meant giving content to the campaign theme of "Yes, we can." It meant moving beyond the crowd-pleasing anti-Republican slogan "Eight is enough!" to provide an outline of the policies a Democratic administration would pursue in the ensuing four years.

To a considerable extent, Obama accomplished that feat. Some of the proposals in the speech were familiar: a rewrite of the tax code to benefit working families and small businesses and to end breaks for "corporations that seek to ship our jobs overseas." Some were surprising: an energy policy that includes "ways to safely harness nuclear power." On foreign policy, Obama elaborated on his theme—which also has been lampooned by Republicans—of opening channels of communication even to hostile nations. In addition to a familiar pledge to collaborate with other nations to combat terrorism, disease and climate change, he promised to "renew the tough, direct diplomacy that can prevent Iran from obtaining nuclear weapons."

Two familiar Democratic themes dominated the proposals broached in the speech. One is to use the tax code to redistribute wealth. The other is to leverage government spending to equalize opportunities in education and employment. Not coincidentally, these themes resonate with the "ordinary Americans" with whom Hillary Rodham Clinton had such success in the Democratic primaries.

Many of those Americans no doubt reacted enthusiastically to Obama's promises to close tax loopholes that benefit the rich and to eliminate waste, fraud and abuse in the federal bureaucracy. Others will wonder—we do—whether more government spending and a fairer tax code are enough to reduce income inequality or expand opportunities for workers who in a previous generation could count on well-paying jobs in the steel and auto industries.

Obama noted that 23 million jobs were created when Bill Clinton was president—but they were not created by reconstructing the economy of the 1950s and '60s. In the campaign ahead, expect John McCain to ask Obama to prove that the journey on which he plans to take the country isn't just a nostalgia trip. That will mean reconciling the Democratic goals of greater equality and a more activist government with the need to acknowledge and capitalize on a global economy.

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Force with diplomacy

By HENRY R. NAU
Special to the Los Angeles Times

Nau is a professor at the Elliott School of International Affairs at George Washington University; a longer version of this article can be found in Policy Review*, August/September 2008.*

What is the right response to Russia's invasion of Georgia and the Duma's recognition this week of two breakaway enclaves within Georgia? A purely diplomatic response offers too little, and using force ratchets up the risks of wider conflict.

The question of whether diplomacy or the use of force is best to meet such foreign challenges and promote freedom is hardly new in American foreign policy. Two long-standing traditions offer some answers.

Liberal internationalism, which is identified with Woodrow Wilson, seeks to reduce the role of force by promoting peaceful diplomacy through multilateral institutions. It expects expanded trade and modernization to slowly defuse global tensions and advance freedom.

In contrast, the classical realist tradition, practiced most notably by Teddy Roosevelt, carries a big military stick, defends free countries by balancing foreign powers against each other and worries that modernization may not lessen tensions but rather strengthen adversaries that continue to oppose freedom.

The problem with both traditions is that they fail to integrate force and diplomacy.

The goals of liberal internationalism are the right ones for U.S. diplomacy, because Americans balk at using force unless it spreads freedom. Classical realism, on the other hand, is right to emphasize the use of military force. Tyrants exist, and because they use force against their people, they are more likely to retain it as a viable option in dealings with other countries.

There's a third tradition that pays more attention to combining force and diplomacy. Call it conservative internationalism. It's conservative because, like classical realism, it assigns a significant role to the use of force. It's internationalist because it seeks to spread freedom, a principal goal of liberal internationalism. Four U.S. presidents have successfully practiced conservative internationalism: Thomas Jefferson, James K. Polk, Harry Truman and Ronald Reagan.

Conservative internationalism integrates force and diplomacy by prioritizing goals. The Wilsonian goal of ending tyranny around the globe is far too ambitious, especially when it may require the use of force. Freedom advances best, with the least human cost, on the borders of existing democracies, not in distant neighborhoods where few democracies exist.

Truman and Reagan understood this well. Truman deployed U.S. forces in Western Europe primarily to rally and nurture freedom after World War II. Reagan waged an arms race primarily to bring freedom to nearby Eastern Europe.

Today, as the Georgian conflict demonstrates, the primary frontier of freedom lies along Russia's border with the Baltic states, Ukraine and the Caucasus. Another is Turkey, which borders Europe's old democracies. Still another is India and Pakistan. For conservative internationalists, nurturing democracy in these countries is far more pressing than democratizing Iraq and Afghanistan, which reside in mostly despotic neighborhoods.

Conservative internationalism combines force and diplomacy in another way. It does not regard force as a last resort if diplomacy fails—a weakness of liberal internationalism. Nor does it consider diplomacy a substitute for force, as some realists believe. Rather, conservative internationalism holds that force empowers diplomacy. A huge invasion force had to be assembled in the Persian Gulf in the fall 2002 to get U.N. inspectors back into Iraq and create the diplomatic option of monitoring the country's weapons of mass destruction. Conversely, diplomacy validates the use of force; it wins the peace after force wins the war. The Bush administration had to learn this the hard way when it neglected diplomacy after successfully invading Iraq in 2003.

Jefferson and Polk were masters at joining force and diplomacy. Each time they used force, they strengthened their diplomatic hand. When the moment came to compromise, the two presidents did so from a position of strength. Jefferson led Napoleon to believe that if he went to war in Europe, the U.S. and England might align and seize Louisiana. So Napoleon sold Louisiana to the United States to deny it to England. Polk ended the Mexican-American War short of annexing the entire country because he repeatedly sent envoys to Mexico City and ultimately accepted a final compromise negotiated by one of them with whom he bitterly quarreled.

There is a third way that conservative internationalism integrates force and diplomacy. Unlike classical realism, it does not hold that a country's material resources define an outer limit to its conduct of foreign policy. Nor, like liberal internationalism, does it believe that international consensus ultimately constrains foreign policy.

Rather, it believes that the majority will of free peoples limits a country's ability to influence international events. If presidents cannot retain the majority support of their own and other democratic peoples, they have no business trying to spread freedom to nondemocratic countries.

The toughest test the next president will face is his ability to maintain a consensus with the United States and among democratic countries when he has to resort to the use of force. As long as authoritarian governments persist, force will be used in international affairs, and the right response to it is to join force and diplomacy, not use force as a last resort or as a substitute for diplomacy.

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Rejoice, but reel in oversized Obama expectations

By ROSA BROOKS
Special to the Los Angeles Times

Brooks is a professor at the Georgetown University Law Center. E-mail her at rbrooks@latimescolumnists.com.

Rejoice, Democrats. After all those months worrying about a train wreck at the Democratic National Convention, you can relax. Everyone in Denver is acting like a normal human being.

Hillary didn't kick Barack in the groin, she didn't try to claw Michelle's eyes out and she didn't incite a riot among her followers. Breathe a deep sigh of relief.

Michelle, meanwhile, gave an earnest tear-jerker of a speech, thwarting right-wing efforts to paint her as a resentful, dashiki-wearing black nationalist. Teddy Kennedy rose from his hospital bed to remind us of Camelot. Even Bill Clinton behaved himself.

So, Democrats, why all the long faces? Oh, right. Where's the messiah?

The convention is practically over, but Barack Obama has yet to utterly transform U.S. politics or perform any miracles. Wheelchair-bound conventioneers are still in their wheelchairs, and the only loaves and fishes are those provided by caterers. The economy's still in the toilet. The war in Iraq is still going on. Beltway insider Joe Biden is the VP pick, and Obama hasn't even apologized for his vote on the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act. So where's the change?

Poor Obama. When Hillary, Michelle, Teddy and Bill act like normal people, everyone's happy. But Obama's never allowed to just be a regular guy. He's supposed to be a cross between a new Jack Kennedy and a new Martin Luther King Jr.—someone who can transform politics-as-usual, cast aside the divisions of race, class and partisanship and lead us into a future full of hope and ... you know, change. He's supposed to be transcendent.

Hillary Clinton's supporters never bought the "Obama as messiah" thing, and even among Obama fans, there's been a muted but rising chorus of disillusioned questions in recent months: Inspiring speeches are great, but exactly how is Obama going to help middle-income Americans cope with the credit crunch? Would the messiah have voted to give telecom companies immunity for illegal domestic wiretapping on behalf of U.S. spy agencies? And couldn't Obama have come up with someone a little more exciting than Biden—a Hispanic single mother from Mississippi, say, or a wounded gay Iraq war vet?

Democrats should give Obama a break. He's not the messiah—as his wife has dryly pointed out, he's an ordinary mortal, someone who doesn't always pick up his socks off the floor.

Actually, he's not quite "ordinary." Obama is not the average American—who would want an "average" president? His multiracial background is striking, and he's smart, progressive, imaginative and charismatic. He can give a speech that makes you cry. But he's also a regular politician. He takes full advantage of lucky breaks and knows how to compromise, bargain and play hardball. Occasionally, he makes dumb mistakes.

He's not the messiah. Get over it, Democrats.

Get over it for the obvious, pragmatic reason: If you want a Democrat in the White House, you've got to stop fretting about your nominee's lack of magical powers and just work to get him elected. Because, as Clinton reminded Democrats on Tuesday night, this election is about more than any particular candidate: It's about "that mom struggling with cancer while raising her kids ... that boy and his mom surviving on the minimum wage ... (and) all the people in this country who feel invisible." It's not about Clinton—or Obama either.

But get over it for another reason too. Democrats, of all people, should remember that political transformation comes primarily from broad-based social movements, not from transcendent individuals. Neither King nor Lyndon Johnson magically brought civil rights to blacks. Moving speeches and civil-rights legislation were important—but those speeches wouldn't have made much difference, and that legislation would never have been possible, had it not been for the thousands of people, black and white, who spoke out, organized, signed petitions and joined protest marches (sometimes risking their livelihoods and their lives to do so).

You want a transformative political leader? In Obama, you might have one, but don't expect him to do that transforming all by himself. Obama's good, but no one's that good. For Obama to shepherd in real change—economic, social or in foreign policy, whatever "change" means to you—he needs robust, supportive social and political movements to tap into.

So if Democrats want real "change," they need to get out there and organize, give Obama solid backing and not go all wishy-washy when he makes mistakes. And they need to stop griping that his speeches alone don't transform the political landscape. That's their job.

Youth is served by Democrats in Denver

By JOEL STEIN
Special to the Los Angeles Times

Stein is a columnist for the Times*. E-mail Stein at jstein@latimescolumnists.com.*

DENVER—Other than Wal-Mart, politics is the only arena where old people get all the jobs. But the Democratic National Committee set a goal this year to have 10 percent of its elected delegates be young, which the party defines as 35 or under. I'm guessing they define old as Robert Byrd's parents.

California exceeded the 10 percent mark, largely because sneaky college Democrats persuaded the state party to hold many delegate elections on campuses. That'd be like Republicans choosing all their delegates in VFW halls. But the plan worked. California sent more young delegates—49—than any other state; in fact, there are more young Californians than there are total delegates for 22 states. "I'm sort of over the hill, washed up," said 27-year-old delegate Jeff Millman. "I was sitting next to two UC Davis students who were 20 and they were delegates."

I also heard that there was a lot of hooking up among the youth delegation. "It's a mass orgy! It's awesome!" said delegate Dan Schneider, 31, who, admittedly, was pretty wasted and totally sarcastic when he told me that at a party at 2 a.m. After about 10 belligerent minutes spent mocking me, my reporting skills—and then me and my reporting skills—Schneider told me that despite my assertions to the contrary, the young delegates were not dorks. "If they have to campaign and caucus to win, they have to be ebullient. If that means dynamic, if that means attractive, so be it. They're not nerdy." And, after enough beers at high altitude, I began to agree with him.

But the ringleaders of the campus vote push? Not ebullient enough, it seems. Nick Warshaw, 21, the president of the California College Democrats, and Rocky Fernandez, 30, the president of the California Young Democrats, each managed, somehow, to lose their election for delegate.

"I got my butt kicked," said Warshaw, a senior at Claremont McKenna College. "I lost to an older gentleman who took off two months from work." Warshaw, of course, has taken 21 years off work.

The delegate selection system is surprisingly complex, partly because it's run by Democrats and partly because I find anything so intricately boring complex.

In the primaries, each presidential candidate is assigned a number of delegates in each congressional district, depending on how many votes he or she got there. So in Warshaw's district, Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton got two delegates each. But the DNC wants equal gender representation, so there were four separate elections: male Obama delegate, female Obama delegate, male Clinton delegate and female Clinton delegate.

If a district has an odd number of delegates for a candidate, one spot gets gender switched every four years, on a different schedule in every district. You can see why voters think Democrats are less efficient at governing. I was surprised the DNC hadn't yet apportioned for race, class, sexual orientation and willingness to wear a funny hat.

The downside of having so many young delegates—and so many politicians desperate to be liked—was that it jammed up the after-party scene.

"It's a lot harder to get into these things than in Boston (in 2004)," said delegate Becca Doten, 29. She tried to get into Wednesday's "Unconventional '08" party, hosted by San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom. "You needed to call someone inside and tell them to come out and get you," she said. "Same with Eric Garcetti's party."

Doten was elected to be a delegate at a downtown Los Angeles restaurant called Chop Suey, where only one guy showed up who wasn't dragged along by a friend in the running. So all four wannabe delegates delivered speeches directly to him. It was the same campaign strategy used by Chris Dodd, only for Doten, it worked.

Doten said having so many young delegates helped the Democrats reach out to young voters. She seemed to do this by constantly updating her Facebook status with convention news along the lines of "This is awesome!"

Schneider claimed he even won over a lot of his moderate Republican friends this week. "I'm on the floor texting them. I've sent 3,000 text messages over the last four days," he said, making me look at many of them. "They want to play Super Nintendo and watch sports and hit on hot chicks. But if you get them involved, then they vote correctly." If only to stop the texting.

Still, as much fun as I was having because of the 10 percent youth rule, I couldn't help but feel as though young people stole the one massive party old people throw for themselves. I just hope that next week at the Republican convention, the GOP doesn't skew so not-old. We have to leave those people something.

Tuning in to the pulse of the heartland

By HANNA INGBER WIN
SPECIAL TO THE HARTFORD COURANT

My husband and I just finished driving from our home in Los Angeles to my parents' in upstate New York because I will be taking a job on the East Coast. The trip was a great success: We slept in a budget hotel each night and never got bed bugs—just one night with a spider—and we made it to New York without crashing or getting a speeding ticket. More important, we learned about this country we live in, yet know so little about.

Neither of us had been to most of the places we visited along the way. My husband was born and raised in Burma, and I have never traveled in the South or much of the Midwest. We got to check out the vistas in the Grand Canyon, art galleries and jewelry shops in Santa Fe, N.M., beautiful brick mansions in Tulsa, Okla., Cardinal fans in St. Louis and cornfields in Illinois. But what was most interesting to us about our trip was listening to the radio.

Throughout the entire country—between Los Angeles and New York—we couldn't flip through the radio stations without finding multiple shows about Jesus. Some people were singing songs about him; most were discussing how their lives had changed since they had accepted the Lord. On one station a host was interviewing a child about which biblical verse was her favorite.

I have nothing against people talking or singing about their God. I know that Christianity and religion in general have helped many people find purpose and meaning in their lives. I just had no idea there was so much to say about Jesus. It was remarkable how different the selection of heartland radio stations is compared with those on the West and East coasts. In Los Angeles and New York it is hard to find any station dedicated to biblical verses and life after the "born again" moment. In the middle of the country, it's hard to find anything else.

The talk radio shows covering the presidential campaign were also fascinating. On the coasts you hear about "talk radio" and its influence on people's political views. It is often credited as a reason conservative Republicans have been so successful at mobilizing voters. But to actually listen to the talk radio shows is another thing entirely. I highly recommend it.

Our favorite was a man discussing his views on Sen. Barack Obama on 94.7 FM in New Mexico. Each time the show came back from a commercial break, the host introduced the day's theme as "French Frying Barack Hussein Obama." French Frying Obama? What does that even mean? No need to discuss the Hussein mention.

The host gave his explanation of what economic justice "really means." He said it is taking money from the honest, hard workers and giving it to the poor, lazy people. Obama is a socialist, he said again and again. At one point he called Obama a "pigmentally enhanced Robin Hood."

You can read as many articles in the national newspapers or on insider Web sites like Politico as you want, but I doubt you will ever learn as much about this country and this coming election without taking a moment and listening to what the middle of the country is saying.

Hanna Ingber Win will be working for The Huffington Post*'s OffTheBus until the November election.*

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼77°	▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼77°

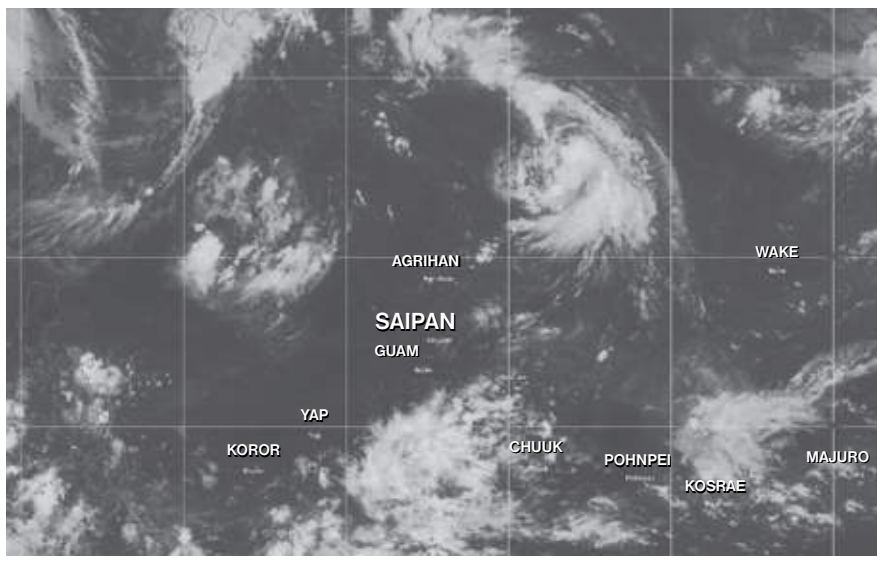
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Cloudy	▲86	▼76
Palau	Mostly Cloudy	▲85	▼78
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼77
Chuuk	Partly Sunny	▲88	▼78
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼72
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲89	▼76
Majuro	Mostly Cloudy	▲86	▼75

Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Sunny	▲58	▼44
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲90	▼64
Hong Kong	Cloudy	▲89	▼79
Honolulu	Showers	▲85	▼76
London	Showers	▲70	▼54
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲76	▼62
Manila	Cloudy	▲89	▼77
Melbourne	Thunderstorms	▲60	▼45
Miami	Thundershowers	▲88	▼78
New York	Thundershowers	▲84	▼66
Osaka	Showers	▲84	▼74
Paris	Rain	▲83	▼59
Pusan	Cloudy	▲85	▼72
Rome	Sunny	▲86	▼64
Salem	Mostly Sunny	▲68	▼47
San Francisco	Sunny	▲69	▼55
Seoul	Showers	▲83	▼71
Tokyo	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼72
Washington, DC	Sunny	▲85	▼65

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, FRIDAY, AUGUST 30, 2008
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

An upper-level low centered near 21N138E is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms well northwest of the marianas between 18N and 25N from 130E to 138E. A well organized surface low located near 25N154E along with favorable upper-level divergence is producing extensive cloudiness. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms over Minami Tori Shima between 22N and 25N from 151E to 158E. A surface trough extends northeastward from eq141E to 11N146E. Convergence near and to the east of the trough is triggering scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms south and east of Yap and Koror within 200 miles of a line stretching northeastward from Eq138E to 11N151E. Another surface trough arcs northward from 5N160E to 11N161E. Surface convergence associated with this system is causing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms over parts of the marshall islands and over Kosrae within an area bounded by a line from 12N162E to 4N162E to 4N172E to 7N172E to 12N174E back to 12N172E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
1:52AM Today	Low Tide:	0.8 Feet
7:14AM Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
2:09PM Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet
8:32PM Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:04AM	6:30 PM
Monday	6:05AM	6:29 PM
Tuesday	6:05AM	6:29 PM
Wednesday	6:05AM	6:28 PM
Thursday	6:05AM	6:27 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	6:08AM	6:42PM
Monday	7:01AM	7:20PM
Tuesday	7:52AM	7:57PM
Wednesday	8:43AM	8:35PM
Thursday	9:34AM	9:14PM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 18, 2008

DEPARTURES			
Saipan-Rota			
CO 9313	8:30am	9:05am	3,4,7
Saipan-Guam			
CO9317	4:00am	4:50am	Daily
CO9597	8:30am	9:20am	1,2,5,6
CO9313	8:30am	10:00am	3,4,7 via Rota
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	Daily
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily
Saipan-Narita			
NW 099	5:00am	7:40am	Daily
NW 078	8:55am	2:00pm	Daily
NW 075	4:45pm	7:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Osaka			
NW 083	4:20pm	7:05pm	Daily
Saipan-Nagoya			
NW 078	8:55am	11:35am	Daily
Saipan-Seoul			
OZ 604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ 604	2:50am	6:30am	2,3,4,5,6,7
OZ 606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2,4,6,7
Saipan-Busan			
OZ 608	3:50am	7:20am	1,4,5,7
Guam-Manila			
CO 891	6:00am	10:30am	3 via Yap and Koror
CO 893	6:30am	8:05am	6
CO 893	8:25am	10:00am	2,7
CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm	5 via Koror
CO 933	7:00pm	8:40pm	Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:45am	1,2,4,6,7
Saipan-Guanzhou			
CZ 3008	5:00am	8:00am	2,6
Guam-Hongkong			
CO 909	6:40pm	9:25pm	1,5
Guam-Rota			
CO 9598	10:15am	10:45am	1,2,6

ARRIVALS			
Rota-Saipan			
CO 9598	11:10am	11:45am	1,2,6
Guam-Saipan			
CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am	Daily
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
CO9598	10:15am	11:45am	1,2,6 via Rota
CO9600	10:45am	11:35am	3,4,5,7
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	Daily
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily
Narita-Saipan			
NW 076	10:15am	2:55pm	Daily
NW 077	6:25pm	1:30am+1	Daily
NW 100	8:45pm	1:25am+1	Daily
Osaka-Saipan			
NW 084	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily
Nagoya-Saipan			
NW 077	9:00pm	1:30am+1	Daily
Seoul-Saipan			
OZ 605	9:00am	2:30pm	2,4,6,7
OZ 603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ 603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1,2,3,4,5,6
Busan-Saipan			
OZ 607	9:30pm	2:50am+1	3,4,6,7
Manila-Guam			
CO 894	11:20am	4:55pm	2,7
CO 894	7:45pm	1:20am+1	6
CO 892	9:45pm	6:30am+1	3 via Koror and Yap
CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	5 via Koror
CO 934	10:55pm	4:30am+1	Daily
PR 110	10:20pm	4:00am+1	1,3,5,6,7
Guanzhou-Saipan			
CZ 3007	8:00pm	4:00am+1	1,5
Hongkong-Guam			
CO 910	10:35pm	5:15am+1	1,5
Rota-Guam			
CO 9313	9:30am	10:00am	3,4,7

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

Schedule of Religious Services

CATHOLIC

Mt. Carmel Cathedral
Sunday Mass: 6am, 9am, 11am and 6pm
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm

Korean Center
Sunday: 10:30am
Wednesday: 10am
Thursday-Friday: 8pm
Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm

Kristo Rai Parish
Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am
Monday- Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm
Saturday: 6am and 6pm

Nuestra Senora De Soledad Parish
Wednesday Mass: 6pm
First Friday Healing Mass: 6pm
Saturday Mass: 6pm
Sunday Masses: 7:30am & 9am

Saint Jude Parish
Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am
Wednesday and Thursday: 6pm

San Antonio Parish
Sunday: 6am and 8am
Tuesday and Friday: 6pm

San Francisco de Borja-Rota
Sunday: 6am and 8am
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6pm

San Isidro-Rota
Sunday: 5am and 10am
Monday-Wednesday: 7pm
Thursday-Saturday: 5am and 7pm

San Jose (Oleai) Parish
Sunday: 6am and 7:30am
Tuesday-Wednesday and Friday-Saturday: 6pm

San Roque Parish
Sunday: 9am
Wednesday: 6pm
Saturday: 10:30am

San Vicente Parish
Sunday: 6am, 9am and 6pm
Monday-Saturday: 6pm

Santa Remedios
Sunday: 7:30am
Tuesday: 6pm
Saturday: 10am-Baptism

Santa Soledad
Sunday: 7:30am

PROTESTANT

Born Again Christian (Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan
Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: 8-10:30pm
Saturday Tagalog Service: 8-10:30pm
Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am
Sunday School for Children: 10-11am
Sunday Filipino Service: 7-9pm

Calvary Baptist Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 9am
Sunday Morning Worship: 10am
Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm
Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm

Chinese Christian Church of Saipan
Worship Services: Sunday, 10am and 7:30pm
Bible Study: Tuesday-Friday, 9:25pm

Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan
Worship/Study Opportunities
Adult Sunday School: 9am
Youth Sunday School: 9am
English Worship Service Sunday: 10am
Sunday Service: 5:30pm
Worship/Fellowship Sunday: 9:30pm
Evangelism/Follow-up: Sunday/Monday: 1:30/7:30pm
Worship Team: Monday/Saturday-9pm;
Cell Groups Tuesday: 7:30pm
Mid-week Service: 7:30pm
Prayer Meeting Wednesday: 7:30pm
Leader's Bible Study Friday: 7:30 pm
Cornerstone School of Ministry Saturday: 7:30pm

Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 9:00am
Place: Vicarage, Chalan Laulau,
Call 235-0545 for directions

Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan
Worship Service: 9am
GBI Classes: 4-6pm
Prayer Meeting: Monday-Saturday: 6am
Sunday: 7am
Home Cell Bible Study: Wednesday-Friday: 7pm
Youth Service: Friday: 5:30pm

Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan
Wednesday: 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Thursday: 5:30am (English); 7:45 pm (English)
Saturday: 5:30am (Tagalog); 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Sunday: 6:45am (English)
Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am (English)

Immanuel United Methodist Church Koblerville
Sunday Services
9:00 AM
Place of the church-next to Mt. Carmel Cathedral on Chalan Kanoa Dr. • Tel: 322-6158
Pastor JJ Matsumoto

Immanuel Methodist Church (Filipino Congregation)
Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal
8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog)
9:15am-Sunday School
Wednesday: 6:30pm, home group
8:00pm-Prayer Meeting
Thursday: 7:30pm-Choir Practice (Church)
Saturday: 8:00pm-Choir Practice (Parsonage)

Jesus is Lord Church, Saipan
English Service: 9-11am, Sunday
Tagalog Service: 6-8pm, Sunday

Korean Presbyterian Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 8:20am
Sunday Adult: 10am
Sunday Adult: 11:30am
Sunday Evening: 7:30pm
Wednesday: 8pm

Life in the Son Christian Fellowship, Saipan
Sunday Worship Service: 10am–12noon
Tuesday: Leadership Institute 7pm-10pm
Wednesday: Corporate prayer 7pm-8pm
Last Friday of the month-prayer: 7pm-11pm
Friday: Youth on Fire: 7pm-9pm
Tel. No. 235-LIFE (5433)

Marianas Baptist Church, Saipan
English Worship Service: 9-10:30am
Evening Worship Service: 6-7pm
Children Sunday School: 9-10:30am
Tagalog Sunday School: 11am-12pm
English Sunday School: 11am-12pm
Korean Worship Service: 11am-12pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting:
English, 7pm-8pm
Korean: 8:30pm-9:30pm

Missions Connection Ministry
Every Sunday Celebrations:
10am (English), 6pm (Tagalog)
Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm
Youth Impact Friday: 7pm
Saturday Prayer Meeting: 7pm

Northern Marianas Christian Church
Sunday Worship Service 10am Fina Sisu Housing FS#1 (Child care will be provided)
Friday Services @ 7pm Fina Sisu FS#1 for more info pls. contact Ryan 484-2620

Saipan Bible Fellowship Church
Sunday School: 9:30-10am
Divine Worship: 10am-11:30am
Evening Service: 7pm-8:30pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8pm-9pm

Saipan Christian Church
Sunday: 7:30am-10am
Sunday: 6:30 pm -9pm
Monday: 8 pm -10pm (Prayer Meeting)
Thursday: 8pm-10pm (Cell Groups)

Saipan Church of Christ
Sunday Bible Class: 9am
Sunday Worship: 10am
Sunday Worship English: 6pm
Sunday Worship Tagalog: 7pm
Wednesday Bible Study: 7:30pm

Saipan Community Church
(Sunday Services)
Palau Service: 7:30am-9am
English Service: 10am-11:30am
Chuukese Service: 1pm-2:30pm
Filipino Service: 5:00pm-7:00pm

Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Saipan
(Saturday Church Services)
Sabbath School Program: 9-10am
Lesson Study: 10-10:40am
Divine Service: 11-12pm
Visitation: 3-4pm
Adventist Youth Program: 4:30-5:30pm
Sundown Worship: 6-7pm

First Baptist Church
(Formerly Saipan Baptist Church)
Afetna St., San Antonio
Sunday
9am Sunday school
10am Regular worship
6pm worship
Wednesday
7pm worship
Everyone is warmly welcome to attend our worship services. Transportation is readily available to anyone who needs a ride to our church. For further information, please call Pastor David M. Mclure at 234-1939/235-7779.

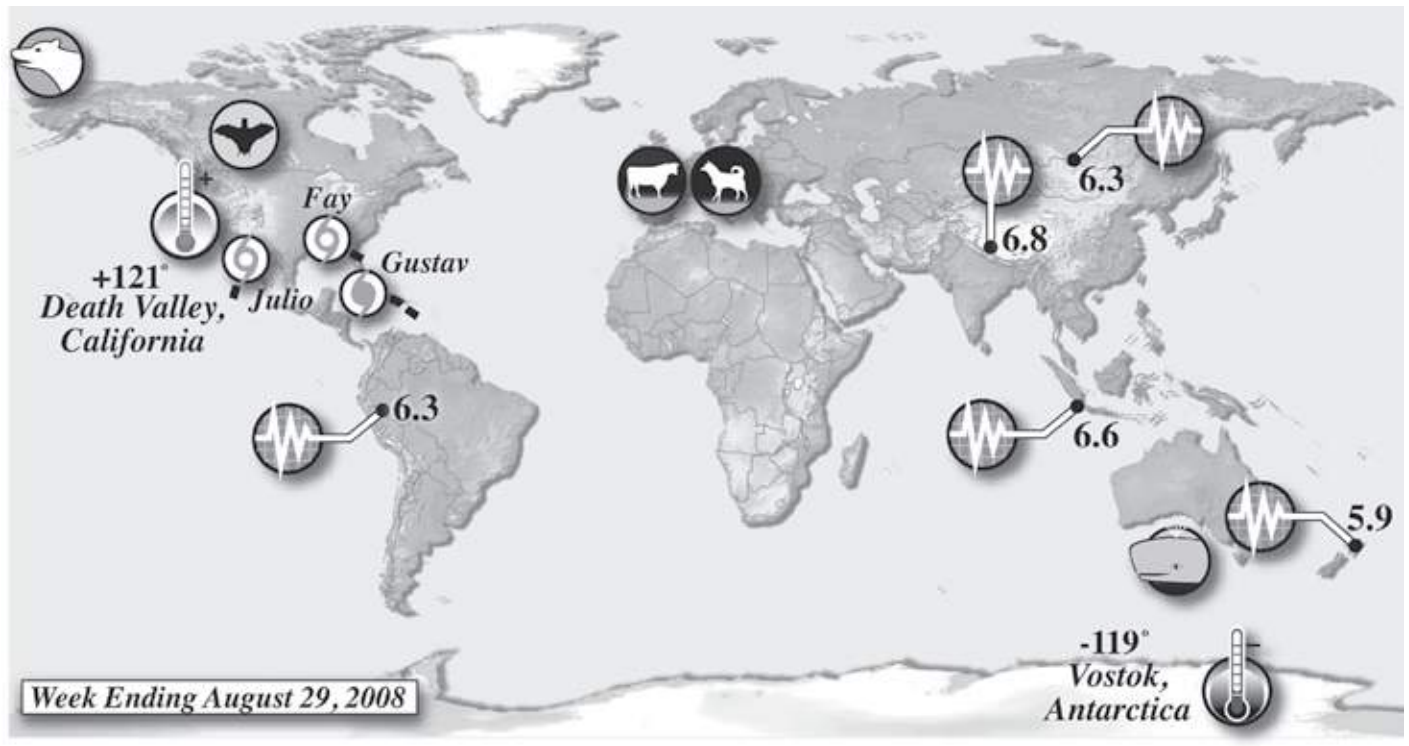
Thy Word Ministries Saipan Faith Center
Phone 234-0209
New Christian Charismatic Church Service located in Chalan Paio, Beach Road in the Sablan building on the 2nd floor above Subway Sandwiches.
Senior Pastors: George & Gail Kamakahi
Asst. Pastors: Eric & Penny Sakaguchi
Service Times
Sunday 10:00am Worship Service
Sunday 7pm Discipleship Classes
Tuesday 10:00am Bible Studies
Tuesday 6:00pm Intercessory Prayer
Tuesday 7:00pm Music Practice
Wednesday 7:00pm Mid-Week Service
Saturday 10:00am Evangelism

Upper Room International Ministries
Sunday 5:30am-6:30am
Morning prayer
7am-9am English service
7am-9am Sunday school
10am-12noon English service, Koblerville
Wednesday 7pm-9pm Prayer meeting
Saturday 7pm-9pm Tagalog service
Venue: Jason Presbyterian Church
Gualo Rai, Saipan

Victory Chapel Christian Fellowship Church
Sunday School: 9:30am
Sunday AM Worship:10:30am
Sunday PM Worship:7:00am
Wed Worship: 7:30pm
Prayer 45 min. Prior to Service Times
Morning Prayer: 6-8am M-S

Earthweek: A Diary of the Planet

By STEVE NEWMAN



Melted Habitat

An aerial survey off the northwest coast of Alaska in mid-August found at least nine polar bears swimming in open waters, with one foundering at least 60 miles from shore. The discovery came just before U.S. scientists announced that Arctic sea ice has shrunk to its second-lowest coverage on record. "To find so many polar bears at sea at one time is extremely worrisome because it could be an indication that as the sea ice on which they live and hunt continues to melt, many more bears may be out there facing similar risk," said Geoff York, polar bear coordinator for the World Wildlife Fund's (WWF) Arctic program. The U.S. National Snow and Ice Data Center says some of the most dramatic melting occurred this summer in the Chukchi Sea, where WWF discovered the nine bears.

Wind Farm Deaths

The growing construction of wind turbines poses a greater danger to bats than birds, according to a new study by Canadian researchers. Their findings may explain why bats have accounted for 60 percent of winged animals found dead around some wind farms, exhibiting no apparent injuries. Writing in the journal Current Biology, Erin Baerwald of the University of Calgary said she found that a sudden drop in atmospheric pressure around the spinning turbines causes the bats' lungs to burst. The researchers discovered that about 90 percent of bats found dead at wind farms had suffered from internal hemorrhaging caused by the effect. Researcher Robert Barclay added that the slow reproductive rates of bats means that the mounting losses at wind farms could bring the insect eaters to the verge of extinction.

Record Whale Sightings

Tourists and marine mammal researchers say they have been delighted at the record number of whales in the Great Australian Bight off South Australia this southern winter. Tourist officer Margie Stott told the Australian Broadcasting Corp. that 166 different whales have been spotted -- 23 more than in the previous record year of 2005. Researchers have documented the births of more than 40 southern right whale calves since the season began in May. They join 56 adult whales, which have been visible from viewing platforms.

Tropical Cyclones

At least 11 people perished in Florida from Tropical Storm Fay's six-day trek across the state, mainly due to flooding and traffic accidents.

■ One soldier was killed and roads were washed out across southern Baja California by flash flooding unleashed by Tropical Storm Julio.

■ Hurricane Gustav slammed the Dominican Republic and Haiti, killing at least 22 people before taking aim on far western Cuba and the Gulf of Mexico late in the week.

Earthquakes

About 4,000 residents in a remote area of Tibet were evacuated to safer housing after a 6.8 magnitude quake damaged homes near the China-Nepal border. The ground shifted nearly 20 feet at one location.

■ Residents on New Zealand's North Island picked up items knocked off shelves and tables by a sharp earthquake centered near the city of Hastings. No injuries were reported.

■ Earth movements were also felt in Java, eastern Peru and Russia's Lake Baikal region.

Wolves Rebound

A westward migration of wolves from Eastern Europe has brought them into areas of Germany where the wild canines have not been seen in centuries. Wildlife officials say the wolves are increasingly being found in residential areas, even on the outskirts of Berlin. The trend follows earlier increases in the number of red foxes, which the wolves feed on. Wolves and foxes are only the start of a resurgence of wildlife not seen since the Middle Ages, according to biologist Josef Reichholf of the University of Munich. "Weasels and otters and raccoons are already well re-establishing themselves," he told Deutsche Presse-Agentur. "And the European moose elk is poised to move westward," he added.

Animal Magnetism

A new study has found that grazing animals like deer and cattle tend to align their bodies to Earth's magnetic field lines. Researcher Sabine Begall and her colleagues at Germany's University of Duisburg-Essen examined Google Earth images of 8,510 cattle in 308 pastures around the world, and made direct observations of 2,974 wild deer at 225 locations in the Czech Republic. They found that whether grazing or resting, the animals tended to face magnetic north or south. Writing in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, Begall notes that because the direction of wind and sunlight varied widely at the observed pastures, the only common factor that could have influenced the animals' positioning was the magnetic field.

Distributed by: Universal Press Syndicate
www.earthweek.com
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OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Disposable diaper breaks fall, saves child's life

SAO PAULO, Brazil (AP)—A disposable diaper has saved the life of an 18-month-old boy, breaking his fall from a third-floor apartment window, officials said Thursday. Caua Felipe Massaneiro survived a 30-foot (10-meter) fall because his diaper snagged on a security spike embedded in the concrete wall around his apartment building in the northeastern Brazilian city of Recife. The boy dangled from the spike for a moment, then "the diaper opened and the baby fell to the ground, but at a much slower speed," a police officer said. "The diaper obviously lessened the impact of the fall and saved the baby's life." "It was a miracle," said the officer who declined to be identified because she was not authorized to speak to the press. "He could also have been killed by one of the spikes." The child was treated for minor fractures at the Hospital Memorial Sao Jose, where spokesman Gilberto Tenorio said he was in stable condition.

Suit accuses restaurant of giving man big tapeworm

CHICAGO (AP)—A man who contends he got a 9-foot tapeworm after eating undercooked fish has sued a Chicago restaurant. In the lawsuit filed Monday, Anthony Franz said he ordered salmon salad for lunch from Shaw's Crab House in 2006 and fell violently ill. He later passed the giant parasite, which a pathologist determined came from undercooked fish, such as salmon. Franz's lawsuit seeks $100,000 from Shaw's and its parent company, Lettuce Entertain You Enterprises, contending the restaurant's staff was negligent in serving him improperly cooked fish. But Carrol Symank, vice president of food safety for Lettuce Entertain You, said the tapeworm didn't come from Shaw's. "We have done a thorough investigation and we're confident the restaurant is not the source," he said. According to the Web site mayoclinic.com, tapeworms can measure up to 50 feet long.

Good Housekeeping

Don't be left in the dark

Choose a backup power system before the next blackout

By BRETT MARTIN
THE FAMILY HANDYMAN

With the power grid becoming less reliable every year, power outages are bound to occur more frequently and last longer. That means you could end up sitting in the dark, sweating without an air conditioner, and eating canned meals while $300 worth of food spoils in your freezer. Meanwhile, your basement could flood since the sump pump is now worthless—and your kids could go crazy without a TV or computer.

Power grid problems aside, we all lose electricity occasionally. But when power outages become routine, leaving you without electricity for days on end, it's time to take action by getting a generator. Smaller, portable generators are great for powering the essentials, like the refrigerator and microwave, while large standby generators can power everything in your house.

In this article, we'll walk you through both types of generators (portable and standby) and both ways to deliver backup power (extension cords and subpanels). We'll cover the pros and cons of each system and give you an idea of prices.

Two types of generators

Portable

When the power goes out, you have to start up a gas-powered portable generator and plug it into your appliances or a subpanel. Portable generators cost $500 to $1,500 depending on power output.

Standby

These generators are powered by natural gas or propane and start automatically during power outages. Prices start at $5,000 for a 7,000-watt unit, including installation.

Determine which generator you need

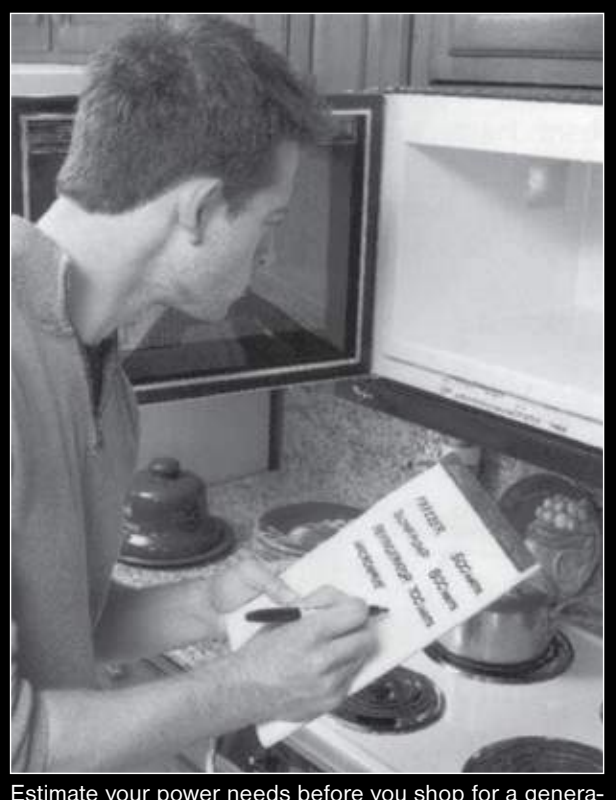
Your first step in adding backup power is deciding what you need (or want) to keep running when the electricity goes out. This determines the size (wattage) of the generator you'll need.

Walk through the house and make a list of everything you want to power during an outage. Look for a label on each appliance (they have to have one) that contains information such as wattage, model number and the year it was made. Some labels are right inside the door on appliances; others are on the back, so you have to pull the appliance away from the wall. Write down the item and how much wattage it uses. Be sure to include essential items, like refrigerators, freezers, a well pump if you have one, and a sump pump if your basement could flood. You can go a few hours or days without an oven (use the microwave instead) and an air-conditioner—they use a lot of power and would require you to buy a much bigger generator.

Add together the item's wattages, then multiply that number by 1.5 (appliances need the extra power to start up). That's the minimum wattage needed for your generator.

WATTAGE REQUIREMENTS

Microwave:	600 to 1,200 watts
Refrigerator:	700 to 1,200 watts
Freezer:	500 to 1,200 watts
Washing machine:	1,200 watts
1/3-hp sump pump:	800 watts
Television:	300 watts
Laptop computer:	250 watts
10,000-Btu air conditioner:	1,500 watts



Estimate your power needs before you shop for a generator. Look for a label in each appliance that you want to power during an electrical outage. Add up the watts to determine the generator size you need.

A portable generator with extension cords is the simplest and least expensive backup power system. Keep the generator at least 10 ft from your house to avoid carbon monoxide poisoning.

Plug-in generators are the simplest solution

The most basic method of supplying backup power is running a portable generator in your yard, then plugging extension cords that plug into your appliances. It's also the least expensive solution since you don't need to hire an electrician to install a subpanel. The downside is you have to run extension cords everywhere you want power and you're limited to how many things you can plug in at once (most generators have either two or four outlets). You also have to start and maintain the generator.

When the power goes out, place the generator on a flat surface, at least 10 ft. from the house. Don't set it under awnings, canopies or carports, or inside the house or garage. It's absolutely critical that you keep the generator away from your

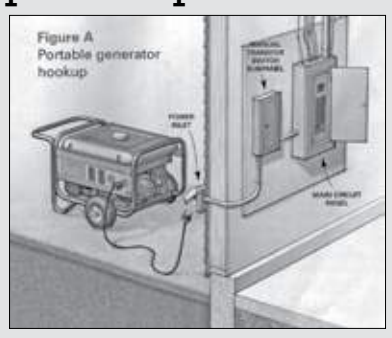
See PLUG-IN on next page

CAUTION

Don't kill a utility worker

Don't attach a second male end to a power cord, then run it from the generator to a wall outlet to power a circuit (yes, people have done this). This may seem like a clever way to run power through your home's wiring system, but the electricity will run back through the circuit breaker panel and out to the utility lines, which can kill personnel working on the lines, even those miles away.

A manual transfer switch subpanel makes portable power more convenient

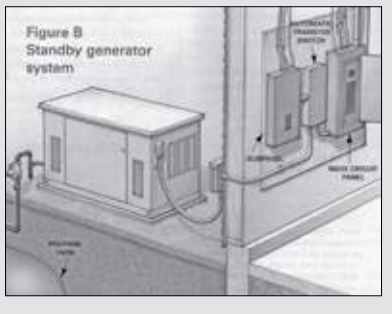


To use a portable generator without the hassle of running extension cords, hire an electrician to install a manual transfer switch subpanel off your main circuit panel and install dedicated inlet to power the subpanel (installing the subpanel is complex; not a DIY project). This setup gives you the advantage of powering entire circuits in the house, not just individual appliances. The drawback is you still have to start and maintain the gas-powered generator. And unless you buy a large generator (they're available with more than 15,000 watts), you're still limited in what you can power.

Before calling an electrician to add the subpanel, choose what you want to power during an outage. It's worth including a circuit that'll let you run your

See A MANUAL on next page

Standby generators are effortless



Standby generators automatically turn on when the power goes out—you don't have to do a thing. This is the best option if you want to keep all or most of your appliances running. Most standby generators are powerful enough to run a central air conditioner, kitchen appliances and other large items—simultaneously. They're also quieter than portable generators and you don't need to worry about running cords or storing gasoline. The drawback is the price you'll need to have the generator, transfer switch and subpanel professionally installed.

A transfer switch constantly monitors power. If you lose electricity, it starts the

See STANDBY on next page

BUYER'S GUIDE

Briggs & Stratton: Portable and standby generators. (800) 743-4115 for portable generators, and (800) 732-2928 for standby generators. briggsandstratton.com

Centurion: Portable and standby generators. centuriongenerators.com

Generac: Standby generators. (888) 436-3722; generac.com

Honda: Portable generators. (770) 497-6400; hondapowerequipment.com

Kohler: Standby generators. (800) 544-2444; kohlersmartpower.com

KITCHEN MAGIC

Orange-Glazed Steak

We marinated the beef in a soy and garlic mixture, then brushed it with orange marmalade on the grill. Serve with our Peach Salsa on the side.

1/4 cup soy sauce
2 garlic cloves, crushed with garlic press
1 teaspoon coarsely ground black pepper
1 top round steak, 1 1/4 inches thick (about 2 pounds)
1/3 cup orange marmalade

1. In 13-by-9-inch glass baking dish, mix soy sauce, garlic and pepper. Trim fat from round steak; add steak to soy sauce mixture, turning to coat. Cover and refrigerate 30 minutes, turning once.

2. Place steak on grill over medium heat; spoon remaining marinade over steak. Cook steak 25 minutes for medium-rare or until of desired doneness, brushing with orange marmalade during last 10 minutes of cooking, turning steak occasionally. Serves 6.

Peach Salsa

Stirring in just a bit of peach or apricot jam brings out the fresh sweetness of the peaches.

8 (about 3 pounds) ripe peaches, coarsely chopped
1 small (red pepper) cut into 1/4-inch dice
2 green onions, chopped
1/4 cup peach or apricot jam
2 tablespoons balsamic vinegar
2 tablespoons olive oil

1. In large bowl, toss ingredients until combined. Cover and refrigerate until ready to serve or up to two days. Makes 12 (6 cup) servings.

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Electrical tool kit

By SAMANTHA MAZZOTTA
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Q: When I moved to my first apartment, my dad gave me an old tool set with wrenches, pliers, a hammer and so on. He told me I need to add wire strippers and a tester. What are these?—Haley C., Boulder, Colo.

A: A wire stripper (usually a cutter/stripper) and a tester are among the basic ingredients of an electrical repair set. Most apartment dwellers will not (and should not) need to perform repairs to their wiring. However, like the rest of the items in the tool kit you received from your dad, they are handy to have around and may make an appearance while decorating the place. (Putting up a new light fixture or ceiling fan is one immediate use that comes to mind.)

A good basic electrical tool set can be put together for between $20 and $100 and should include the following items:

- A neon tester, which will tell you whether power is on in a socket, switch or receptacle.
- A wire cutter/stripper to cut small wires and strip some of the plastic casing from the ends (very useful when attaching wires to fixtures).
- Needle-nose pliers (also called long-nose pliers), which easily crimp wires and can reach into tight spaces.
- Lineman's pliers, which make twisting wires together much easier.
- Electrical tape, a handy item which covers bare wires or tacks things into place temporarily.
- Wire caps or nuts, in assorted sizes, which quickly screw over spliced wires to hold them securely in place.

Some of these tools are helpful in other areas besides electrical work—needle-nose pliers, for example, are a big help when hanging pictures, as they can quickly crimp the picture wire into shape.

When you do decide to take on an electrical project—such as hanging that ceiling fan—ask someone with experience to work with you. Always shut off the circuit to the receptacle or switch you'll be working on, and test using the neon tester to make sure no current is traveling through it before starting work.

HOME TIP: If an appliance or plug is smoking or sparking, turn off power at the main circuit box immediately, let it cool, then contact an electrician to inspect and repair.

Send questions or home-repair tips to homeguru2000@hotmail.com, or write This Is a Hammer, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.

PLUG-IN

From Page 10

house and especially away doors and windows—your life could depend on it.

Caution: Plug in a carbon monoxide detector when using a portable generator. It'll alert you if your generator exhaust reaches a dangerous level inside the house.

Extension cords must be at least 14 gauge to carry adequate power. Follow the cord's maximum wattage rating (listed on the cord's label). Start up the generator, then plug in the extension cords. Be careful not to overload the generator by plugging in high-wattage appliances that you didn't plan for. It'll trip the breaker or blow a fuse on the generator, or damage the appliance motors.

Portable generators range in price from $500 for a 3,250-watt unit to $1,500 for a 10,000-watt unit. Options include wheels (get them—generators are very heavy to lift) and electric (key) starts rather than pull-starts. Consider how long the generator can run on a tank of gas. Some run just a few hours, so you'll have to get up in the middle of the night to add fuel. Others have 16-gallon fuel tanks that can run up to 10 hours.

A MANUAL

From Page 10

TV, computer and a lamp, especially if you lose power for days at a time, so you can keep everyone entertained. Plus, these electronic devices don't require a lot of wattage. The circuits you want powered will be moved from your main circuit panel and when you lose electricity and hook up the generator. Expect to pay $200 for materials and at least $500 for an electrician to install the subpanel and special inlet.

During a power outage, run a cord from the generator to the inlet, flip a manual transfer switch to the subpanel, and all the designated circuits will have power. Choose a heavy-duty extension cord with twist-lock ends (generators have receptacles for these ends) that stay in place once they're plugged into the generator and inlet.

STANDBY

From Page 10

generator automatically—even if you're not home. When the power is restored, the transfer switch shuts off the generator.

Standby generators connect to your home's fuel supply (natural gas or propane). If you don't already have one of those fuel lines coming into the house, install a propane tank.

Standby generators range from $5,000 for a 7,000-watt unit to more than $15,000 for a 30,000-watt unit (installation included). Home centers carry a limited selection of portable generators (but usually no standby units). Larger sizes and standby units are usually available through special order or from the manufacturer.

Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Fish and Wildlife

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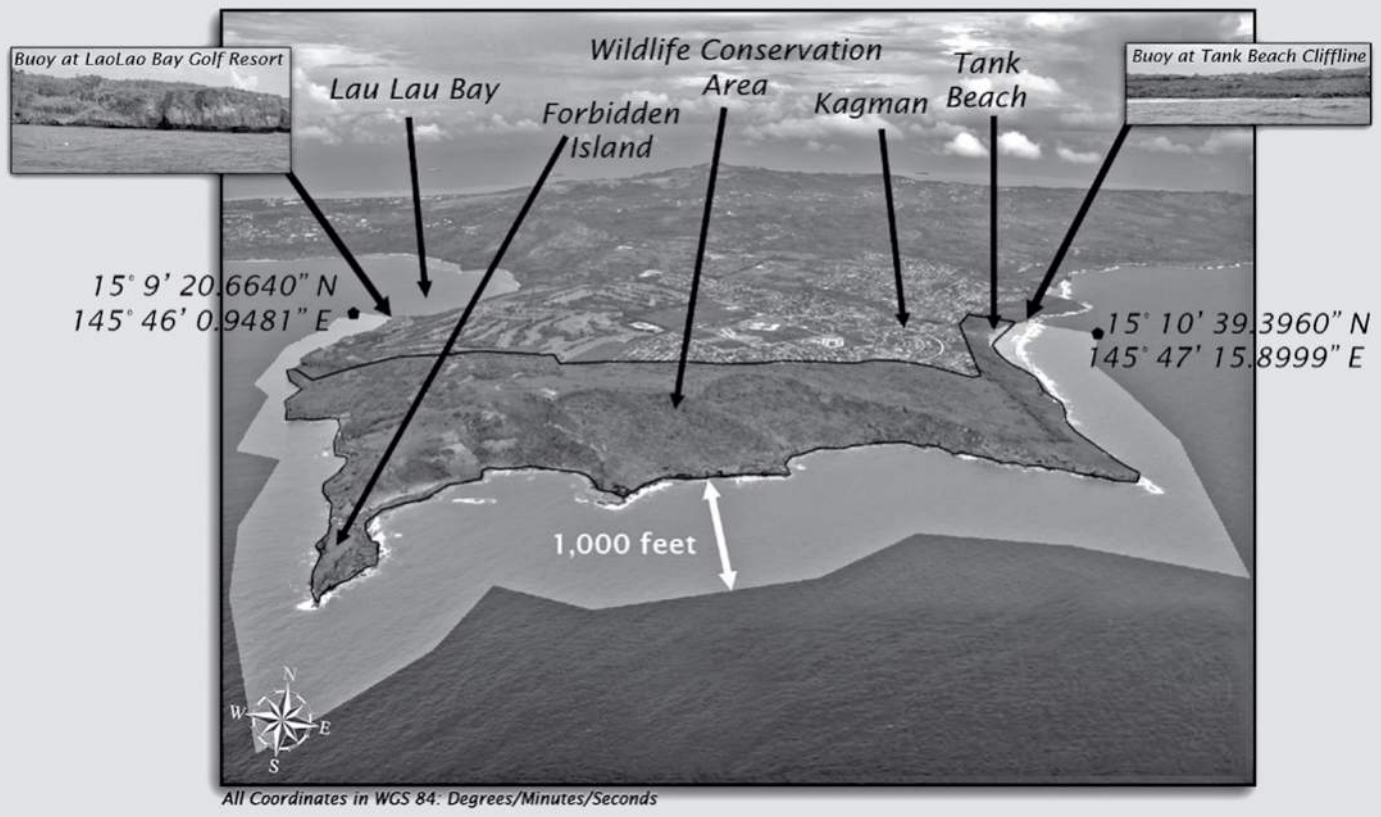

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The Good Life

Having a job that draws everybody's ire isn't as bad as you might think

By DAN ZAK
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

It's Labor Day weekend, so we paused to think about work. Then we started thinking about people whose work attracts the suspicion, dismissal or loathing of the general public.

The auditor: pickpocketing our hard-earned money.

The used-car salesman: passive-aggressive liar with a glinting Rolex.

The criminal defense attorney: slimeball in a suit, standing up for nefarious creatures.

The ballpark umpire: blind, deaf, clearly on the other team's payroll.

The parking enforcement officer: "For the love of God, $40 for going two minutes over the meter?!"

Prejudiced generalizations, surely. Auditors and umpires are merely convenient targets for our personal frustrations. Car salesmen and defense attorneys are stock villains in pop culture, not necessarily bad guys in real life. And without parking enforcement, our streets would be jammed with scofflaws' cars.

Instead of appreciating OUR work today, we're going to appreciate their work and the nonsense they have to put up with by virtue of their titles.

THE WASHINGTON POST

Wanda and Frank Lewark, right, have been in the used-car business for 40 years. Daughter Betsy Briggs, left, is the general manager, and her daughter, Christie Black, works the front desk. A non-traditional, laid-back attitude guides their work at Auto Buying Service in Fairfax, Va.

The used-car salesman

WASHINGTON—Wanda and Frank Lewark have been in the used-car business for 40 years. A non-traditional, laid-back attitude guides their work at Auto Buying Service in Fairfax, Va., and the rewards have flowed from there. The office walls are covered with "Quality Dealer" plaques. Wanda, 64, has been officially commended by the Virginia General Assembly for her community service and is the first and only woman to have won the National Quality Dealer Award from the National Independent Automobile Dealers Association.

The business runs in the family. The Lewarks' daughter, Betsy Briggs, 44, is the general manager, and Briggs' daughter works the front desk. With women at the helm and a thorough but relaxed ethic, Auto Buying Service all but demolishes the stereotype of the used-car salesman.

Q: The term "used-car salesman" has a negative connotation. Why?

Wanda: When we first opened the business, I happened to see a dealer that we knew that was in business in Fairfax. And he said, "Oh, you're going to love this business. You can steal all kinds of money from Uncle Sam, and you can overprice the cars and take advantage of people and get away with it." And I'm sitting there thinking, "We don't want to do that." We just want to go to work each day, make a decent living and provide a service.

Q: How do you put people at ease?

Frank: We have a nice, friendly, casual, inviting environment. Even if we weren't honest, we have a real edge there.

Betsy: Plus, we don't put pressure on people. If they want to think about it, we say, "OK." Whereas another dealer would figure out.

Frank: How to close the deal.

Betsy: We're just ourselves. People aren't dumb. They know about cars. They know what they want, they want to look at things and we just show them. If you serve customers and be honest, you'll stand out.

Q: Ever get an unfavorable reaction when you tell people you sell cars?

Frank: Back in the day you'd say you were a used-car salesman and the red flags really went up. You were right down there with attorneys.

Betsy: When I was younger and people found out what my parents did, they'd go, "Oh, they sell USED CARS."

Wanda: See, but we care about the reputation of our industry. That's why I've done volunteer work. ... I wanted to change the industry. As a result of my involvement, now when someone wants to be a dealer in Virginia, they have to go to two days of classes to learn what that means, what the federal laws are, what the state laws are.

Q: What's one tip you'd like everyone to know about buying a used car?

Frank: Cars are created equal, but they don't remain equal. An '03 Camry here and an '03 Camry somewhere else—yes, they're both '03 and they may be the same model, but what you DO to the car and the HISTORY of the car are two important factors. Always have your car checked out.

THE WASHINGTON POST

Auditors and umpires are convenient targets for our personal frustrations. Internal Revenue Service agent Jennifer Abbott, 31, of Alexandria, Va., is not at all intimidating and is happy to share tax advice: "Be sure you keep all your records."

The IRS agent

WASHINGTON—Jennifer Abbott, 31, is an Internal Revenue Service agent, a title that may only seem intimidating until you learn that, yes, in fact, she breaks into people's houses to eyeball their financial records. Well, not "breaks into." More like "calls up and politely inquires if she can stop by the house to chat about tax returns, thanks!"

Abbott majored in accounting at Marywood University in Scranton, Pa., worked for an insurance company, then moved to Washington seven years ago to work for the IRS. She lives in Alexandria, Va., and regularly volunteers at the library.

Q: Were you mindful of the typical public perception of the IRS when you took the job?

A: No, actually that never crossed my mind. I saw it as a good opportunity, that it would probably be good to work for the federal government.

Q: What's the best part of the job?

A: A revenue agent is like a field agent, so I go to the taxpayer's home or business. I travel to a lot of different places in the area and meet a lot of different people.

Q: What's their reaction when you're like, "I'm from the IRS, and I'm coming into your home."

A: They want to know what they did wrong. The first question is "Why?" And they usually want to clear it up as soon as possible. I think after I meet with them for the first time, they're more at ease.

Q: So they're not panicky?

A: I wouldn't say they're panicky. I've had people who've maybe had other things going on in their life that made them more upset when I was there.

Q: What's the worst part of the job?

A: It's a lot of paperwork. The forms I have to fill out. There's a lot of things I have to write.

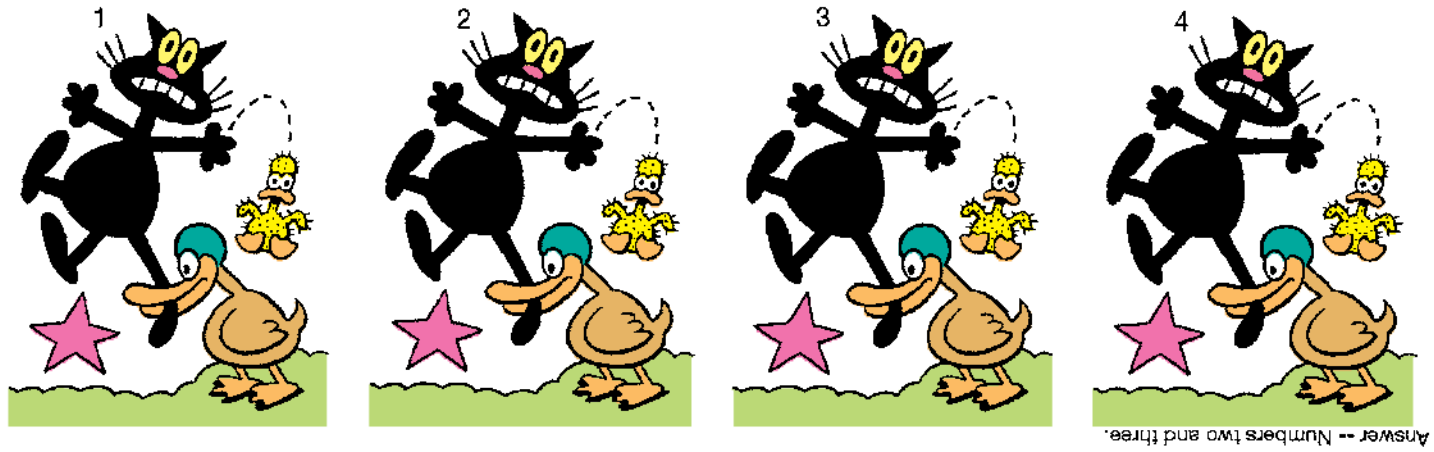
Q: What's the general reaction when you tell people you work for the IRS?

A: "Oh, you know I'm not going to tell

See the IRS on Page 17

Bob Weber Jr.'s Slylock Fox and Comics for Kids

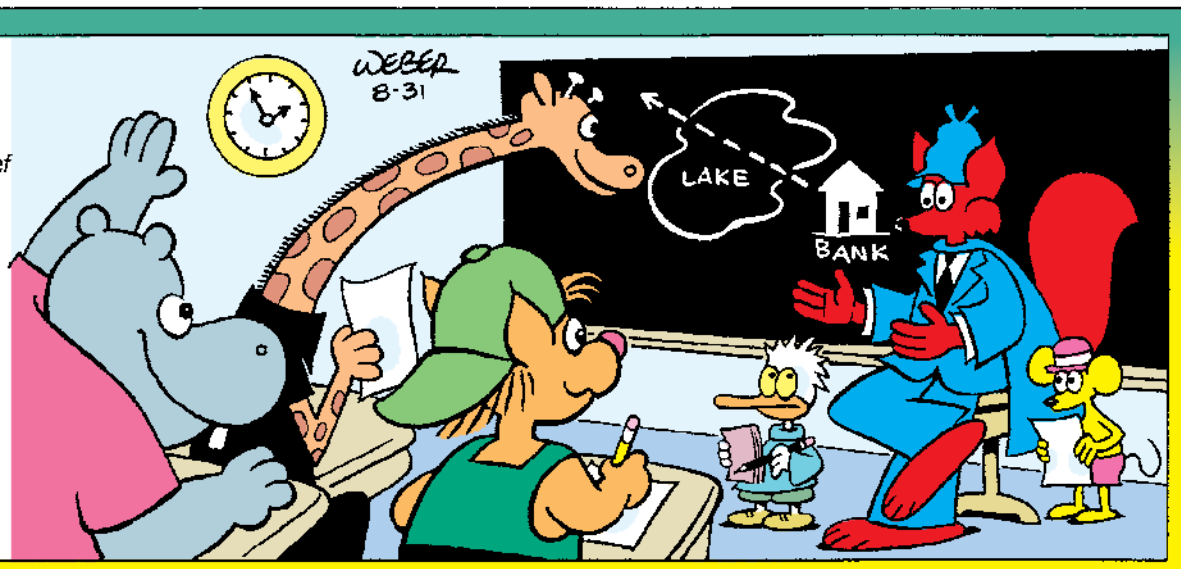
Which two scenes are exactly alike?



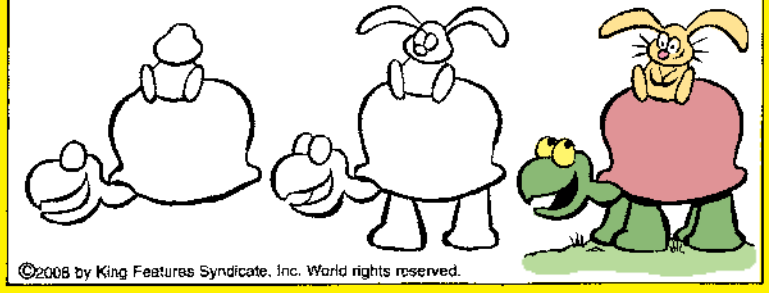
Answer -- Numbers two and three.

Slylock Fox posed the following problem to his class: *During a bank robbery scuffle, a thief had his arm broken. He escaped with a sack of money, crossed a lake, and fled into the forest.* If the badly injured robber did not have a boat, how did he successfully cross the lake?

Solution -- The robbery occurred during the winter. The thief ran across the lake's frozen surface.



HOW TO DRAW a turtle and rabbit



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YOUR DRAWING

Today's terrific drawing is by Lauren, age 9, of Centreville, VA

Submit your drawings at **www.kidcartoonists.com**

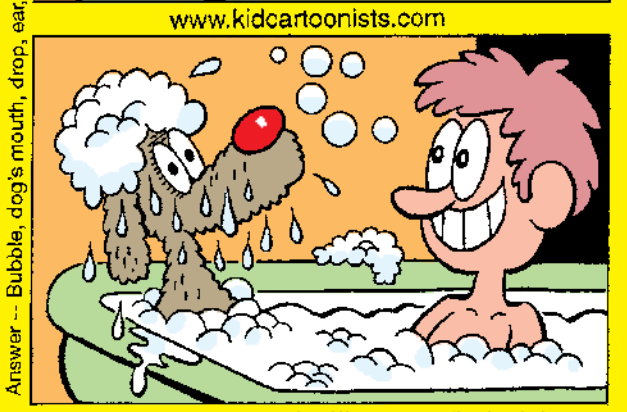
Humans have seven neck bones. How many bones are in a giraffe's neck?

a) 3
b) 7
c) 18
d) 46

Answer -- b) Just like humans, giraffes have seven neck bones.

Find six differences between these panels.

www.kidcartoonists.com

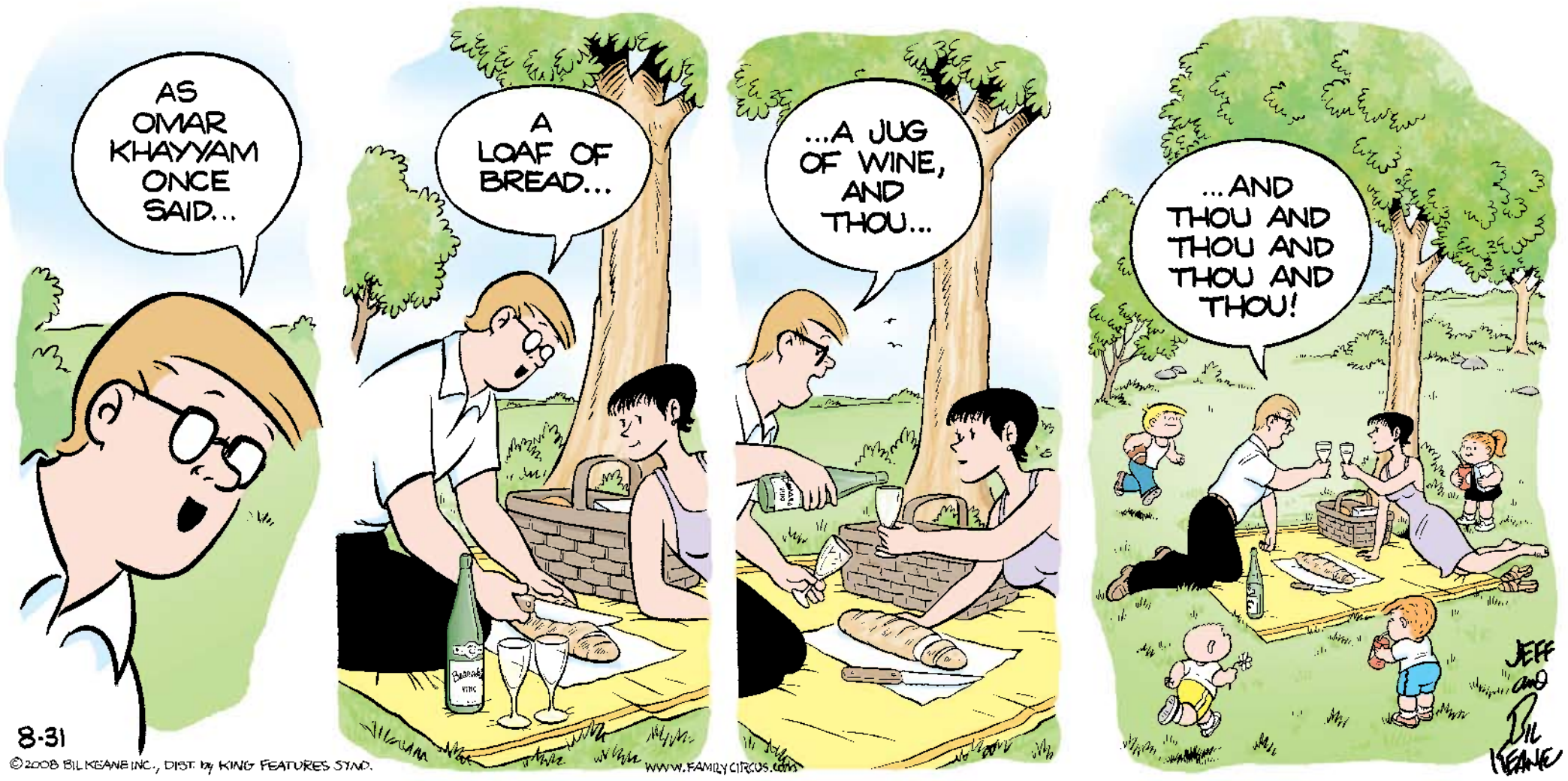


Answer -- Bubble, dog's mouth, drop, ear, soap and boy's hair.

New! The fourth **Find the six differences** collection is here. Send $4 (check/money order in U.S. funds made payable to King Features) with your name and address to **Six Differences No. 4,** P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475

THE FAMILY CIRCUS®

By Bil Keane


AS OMAR KHAYYAM ONCE SAID...
A LOAF OF BREAD...
...A JUG OF WINE, AND THOU...
...AND THOU AND THOU AND THOU AND THOU!
8-31
JEFF and BIL KEANE
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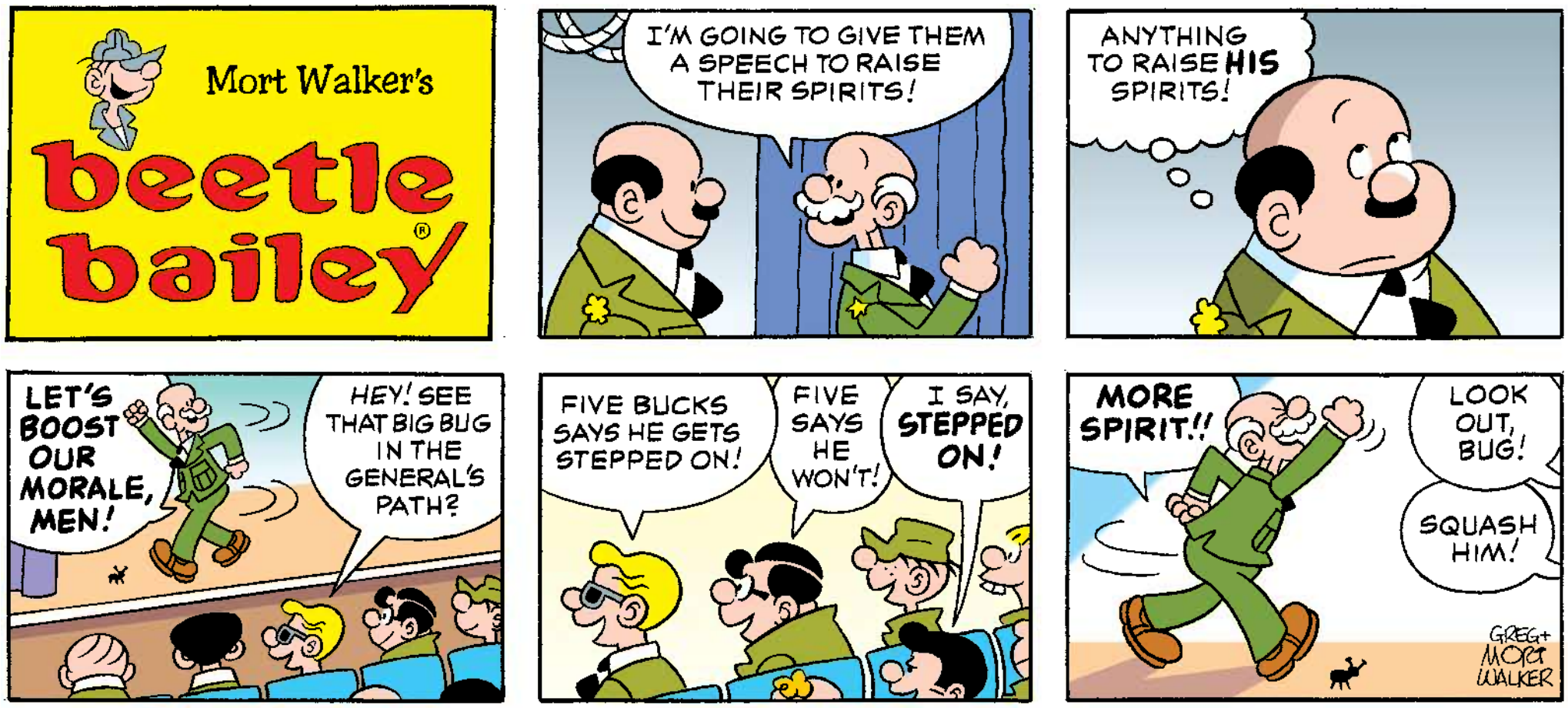
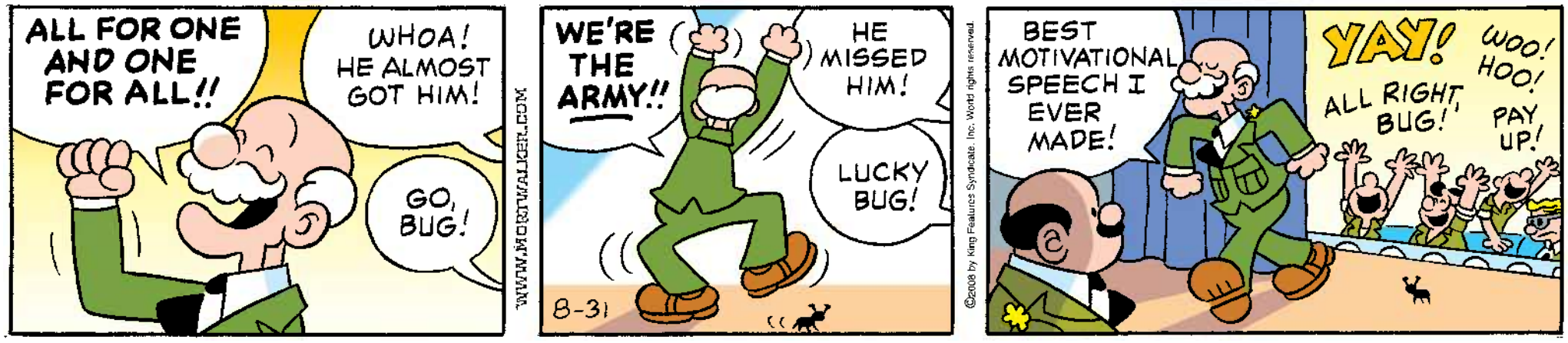
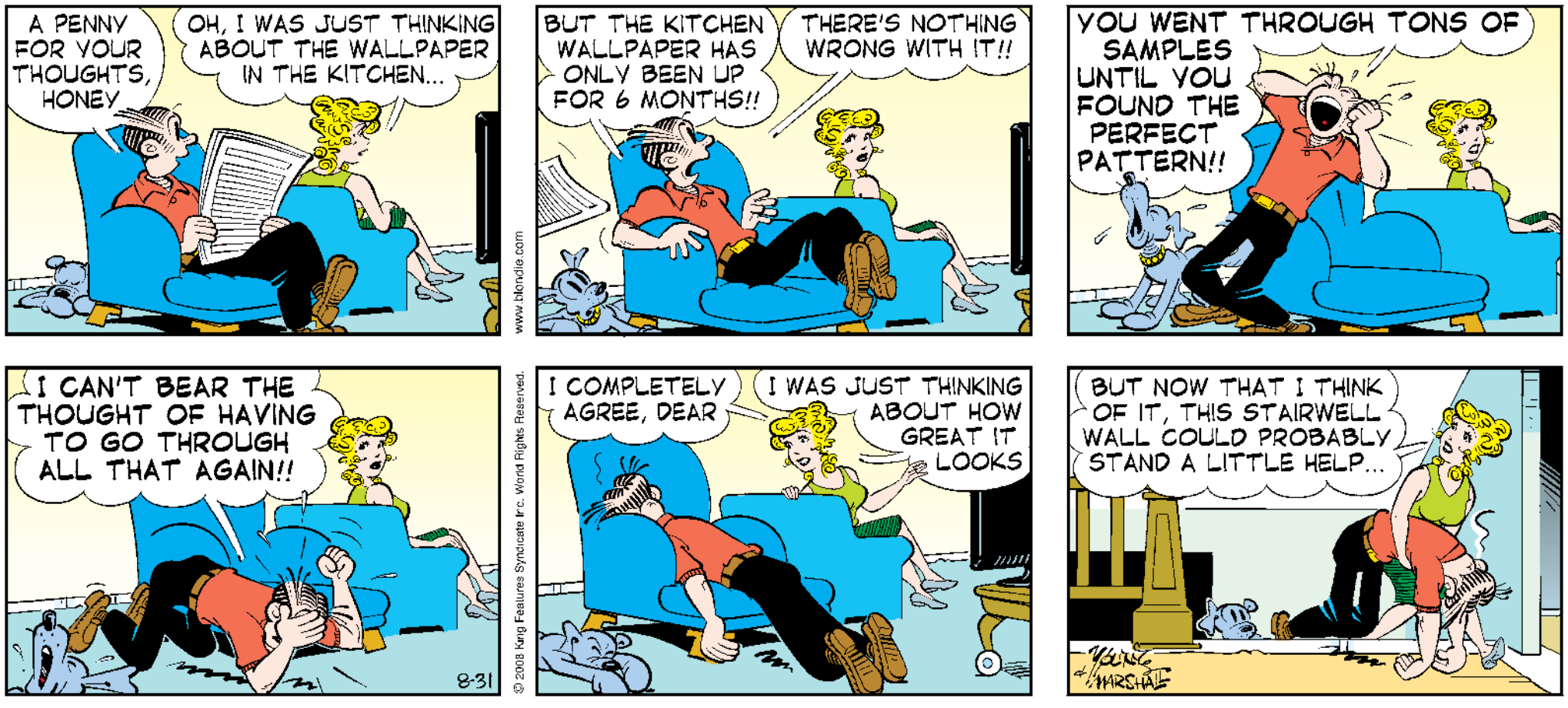
Mort Walker's beetle bailey®


I'M GOING TO GIVE THEM A SPEECH TO RAISE THEIR SPIRITS!
ANYTHING TO RAISE HIS SPIRITS!
LET'S BOOST OUR MORALE, MEN!
HEY! SEE THAT BIG BUG IN THE GENERAL'S PATH?
FIVE BUCKS SAYS HE GETS STEPPED ON!
FIVE SAYS HE WON'T!
I SAY, STEPPED ON!
MORE SPIRIT!!
LOOK OUT, BUG!
SQUASH HIM!
GREG+ MORT WALKER

BLONDIE

BY DEAN YOUNG & JOHN MARSHALL




A PENNY FOR YOUR THOUGHTS, HONEY
OH, I WAS JUST THINKING ABOUT THE WALLPAPER IN THE KITCHEN...
BUT THE KITCHEN WALLPAPER HAS ONLY BEEN UP FOR 6 MONTHS!!
THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH IT!!
YOU WENT THROUGH TONS OF SAMPLES UNTIL YOU FOUND THE PERFECT PATTERN!!
I CAN'T BEAR THE THOUGHT OF HAVING TO GO THROUGH ALL THAT AGAIN!!
8-31
www.blondie.com
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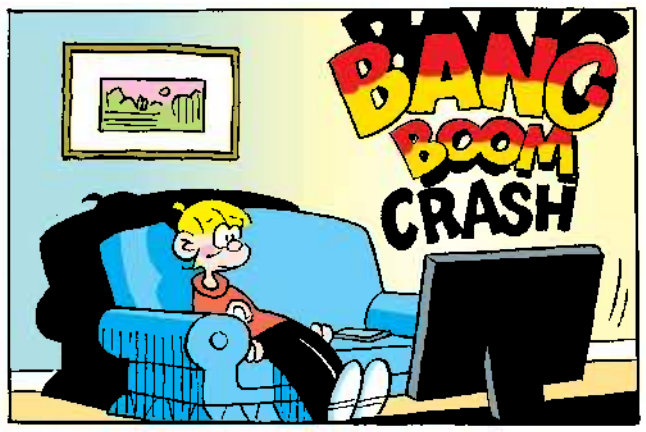
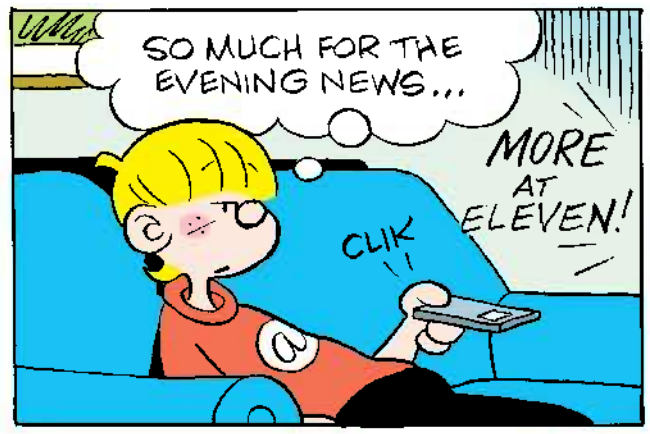
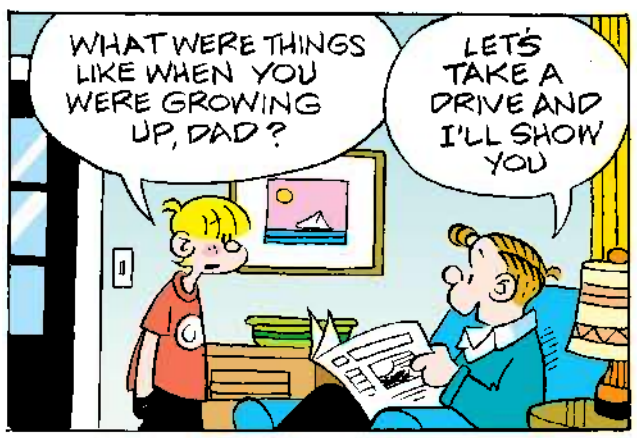
I COMPLETELY AGREE, DEAR
I WAS JUST THINKING ABOUT HOW GREAT IT LOOKS
BUT NOW THAT I THINK OF IT, THIS STAIRWELL WALL COULD PROBABLY STAND A LITTLE HELP...
YOUNG & MARSHALL

Hi and Lois

by BRIAN and GREG WALKER







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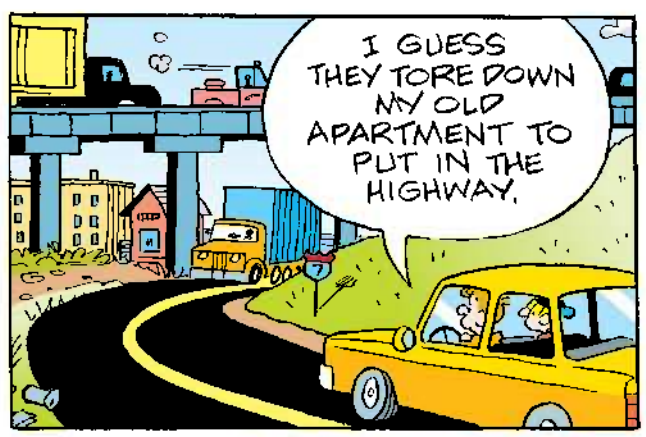
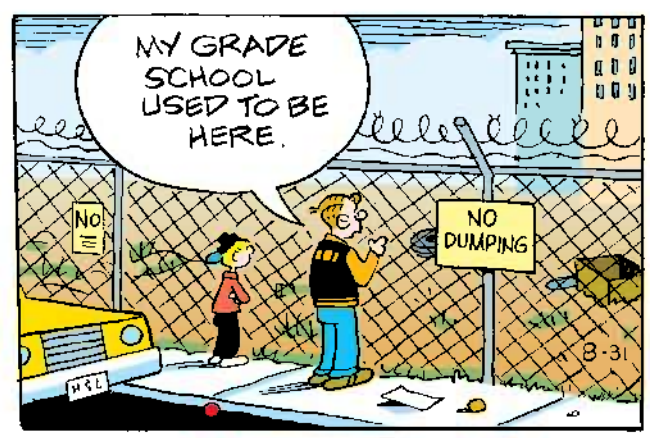
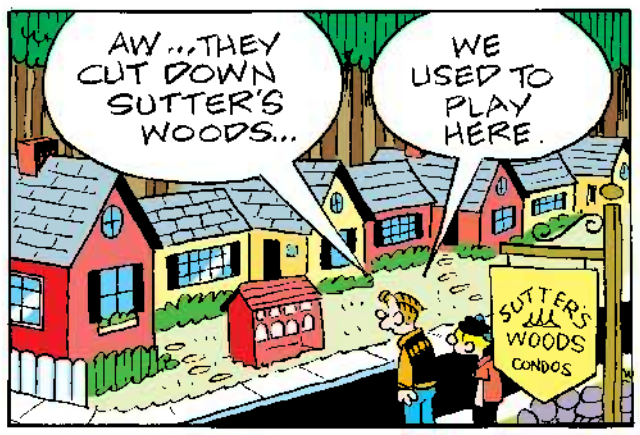
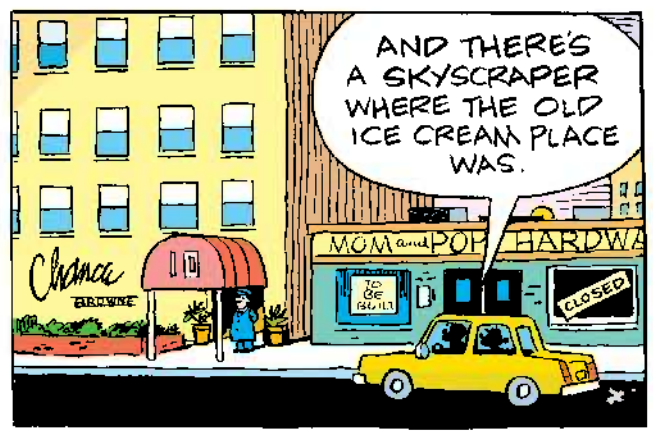
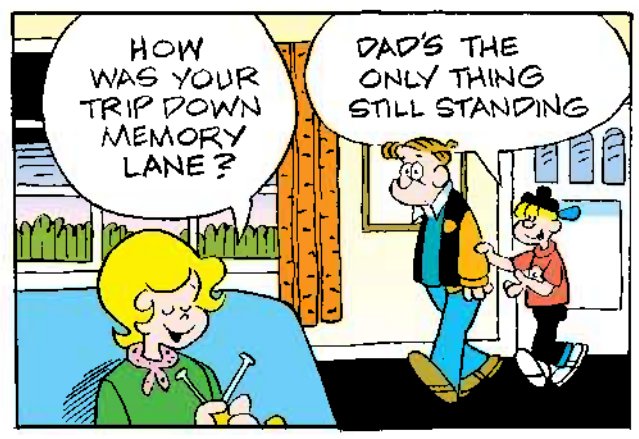




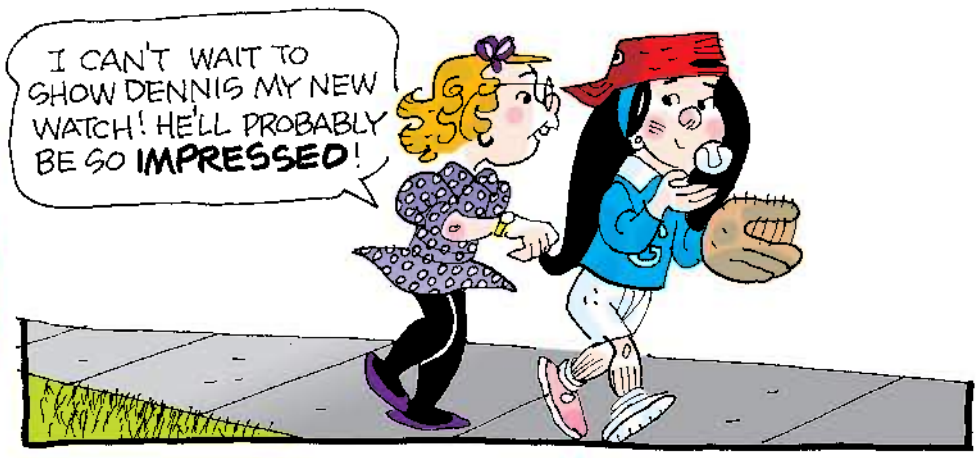


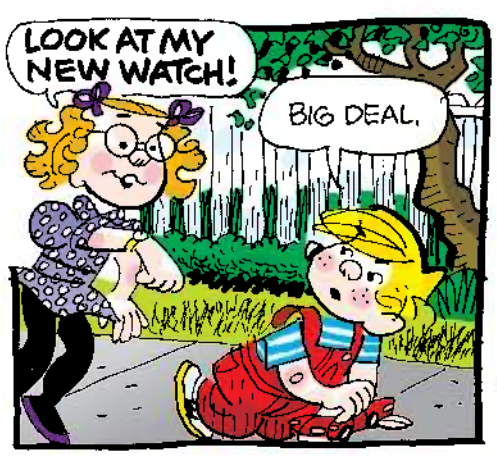


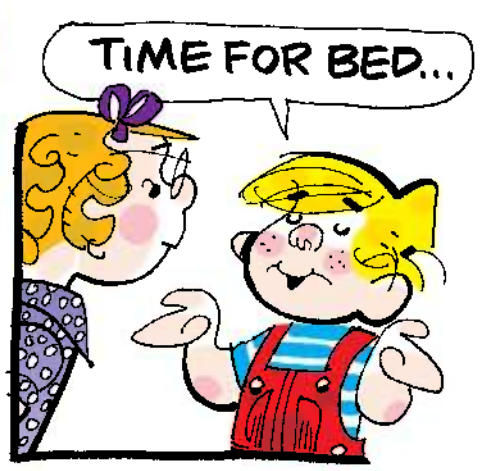


Hank Ketcham's Dennis the Menace

Watch Out!







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BABY BLUES™
BY RICK KIRKMAN & JERRY SCOTT
ZOE, WILL YOU WATCH WREN FOR A WHILE SO I CAN START DINNER?
SURE.
WOW! YOU'RE DOING A GREAT JOB, ZOE!
CHILDCARE JUST COMES NATURALLY TO ME.
8-31 KIRKMAN & SCOTT

Salome's Stars

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Your honesty might upset some people, but you inevitably win more admirers for having the courage to tell the truth when others are more likely to scramble for cover.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Your efforts to defend your project begin to show favorable results. You should soon be able to win over even the most determined detractors who had lined up against it.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) You win praise for your selfless efforts in a very difficult situation. But be careful not to allow your generous nature to be exploited by those who have their own agenda.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) A trusted colleague sheds light on a recent spate of puzzling workplace situations. This should give you the information you need to bring to your superior's attention.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) A shift in workplace management could be helpful for talented Leos and Leonas who have been waiting to have their accomplishments rewarded by receptive leadership.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) A misunderstanding between you and someone you care for should be corrected immediately. This relationship is too important to lose over a bruised ego.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) A welcome piece of good news helps clear the air in a family situation. A job-related incident also eases as more information provides a clearer focus on the problem.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Quick action to heal bruised feelings pays off in a big way. Now you'll be able to move forward with your plans without that problem holding you back.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Your creativity combined with a positive attitude should give you a considerable edge in finding a way to get around the negativity you've run into.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) That sudden streak of stubbornness could cause some problems. Try to be more open to helpful suggestions and more flexible in making needed changes.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Now that that special relationship appears to be well and truly restored, you can spend more time dealing with those long-needed workplace changes.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) A new opportunity sounds promising. But watch out for any conditions that might be attached. Before making a decision, ask that each one be explained in detail.

BORN THIS WEEK: You can be distracted by promises of good times, yet you ultimately reach the goals you set for yourself.

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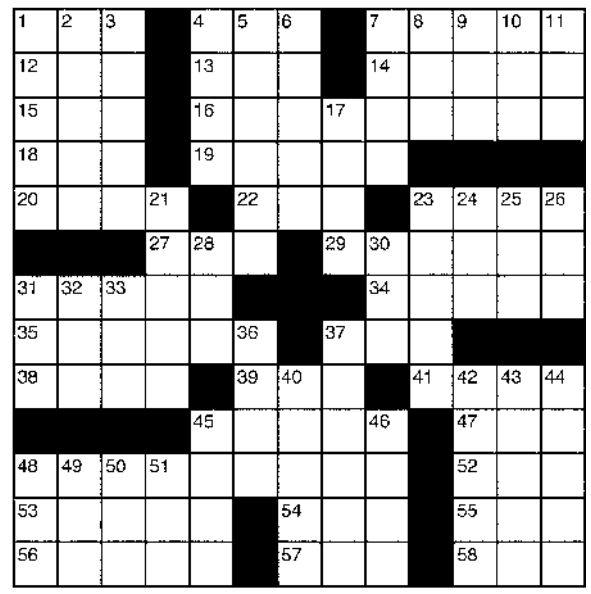
King Crossword



ACROSS
1 Gorilla
4 Shapely leg
7 Wept
12 Plant prickle
13 A mean Amin
14 Torment
15 Blackbird
16 Trial-use PC programs
18 Govt. agcy.
19 Macho type
20 Melt
22 Edge
23 Avoid
27 Eisenhower
29 Laud
31 With 34-Across, site of central activity
34 See 31-Across
35 Sweethearts
37 Agent
38 Probability
39 Reed or Rawls
41 McNally partner
45 Dismissal
47 Marvin or Majors
48 Skivvies
52 Zsa Zsa's sis
53 Persistent attack
54 Onassis, to pals
55 Corral
56 Nudge
57 Caustic
58 Storefront stats

DOWN
1 Sternward
2 Sock
3 "All My Children" role
4 Lillian of silents
5 Stick
6 Florida city
7 "Big Brother" host Julie
8 Uncooked
9 Playwright Levin
10 Mess up
11 Hair color
17 Freeway access
21 Mess under a desk, maybe
23 Lecherous one
24 That guy's
25 "Born in the —"
26 Bottom line
28 Crucial
30 Wardrobe malfunction
31 Personal question?
32 Scuttle
33 Conclude
36 Adagio
37 Sweet
40 Fans call him Shaq
42 Hebrew letter
43 When pigs fly
44 Campus bigwigs
45 Staff
46 Pennsylvania port
48 Work with
49 Zilch
50 Society newbie
51 Id counterpart

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top ten

Most Satisfying Jobs

1. **Clergy**
2. **Firefighters**
3. **Physical therapists**
4. **Authors**
5. **Special Ed teachers**
6. **Teachers**
7. **Education administrators**
8. **Painters and sculptors**
9. **Psychologists**
10. **Operating engineers**

Source: General Social Survey

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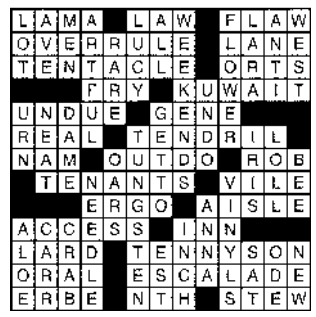
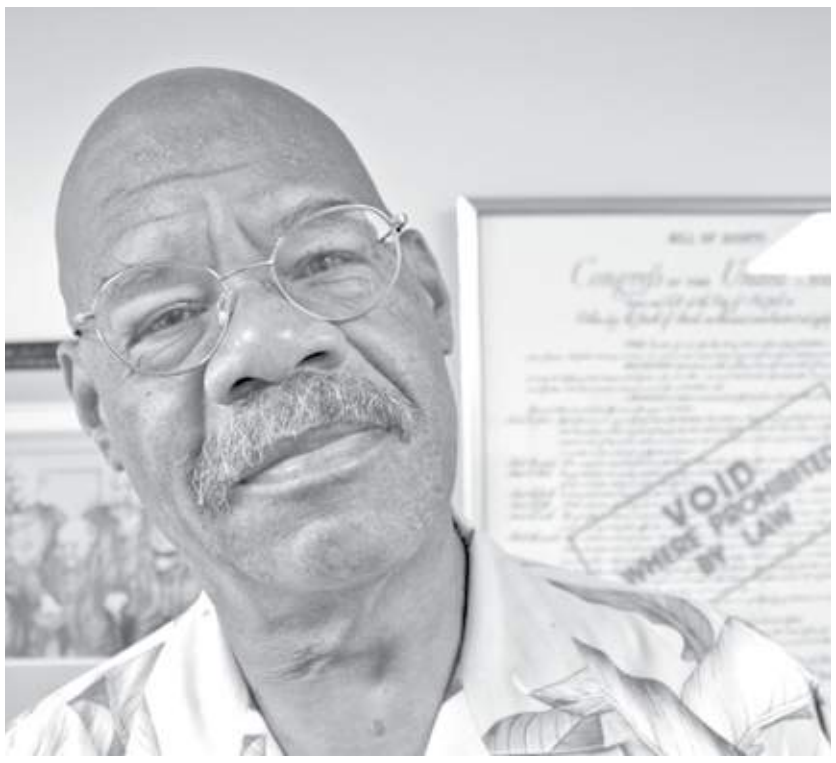
KING CROSSWORD LAST SUNDAY'S ANSWERS





THE WASHINGTON POST

Car salesmen and defense attorneys are stock villains in pop culture, not necessarily bad guys in real life. William Moffitt, shown in his Alexandria, Va., office, says, "I always wanted to be a criminal defense lawyer. … You know, defending people against the power of the state is a very, very heady experience."

The criminal defense lawyer

WASHINGTON—A cartoon framed in William Moffitt's Alexandria, Va., office shows 12 jurors acquitting Sami al-Arian, the Florida professor accused of supporting Palestinian terrorists in 2005. The title of the cartoon is "The Real Patriot Act." Moffitt was al-Arian's attorney, perhaps his most recent visible assignment.

Moffitt, 59, grew up in New York, went to law school at American University, was hired as a clerk at the first racially integrated law firm in Northern Virginia in the early '70s and now runs his own practice. His client list has ranged from the high profile (controversial political activist Lyndon LaRouche Jr.) to the local (a clinically insane man who went on a stabbing spree in Alexandria). Moffitt, of Reston, Va., takes pride in often being the lone person to stand up for the accused in the face of a powerful government and judgmental public.

Q: Why did you become a criminal defense lawyer?

A: My mother raised me on "Perry Mason." Seven-thirty in New York every Saturday night. I always wanted to be a criminal defense lawyer. For some reason that always attracted me. You know, defending people against the power of the state is a very, very heady experience.

Q: Does hostility toward a client ever turn into hostility toward you?

A: It sometimes does. Not always. I've seldom had a case where people were particularly angry at *me*. We got some pretty angry stuff on e-mails when we were doing Sami's case.

Q: Like what?

A: "How could you represent this guy?" "He's a known terrorist." "How could you do that?"

Q: How did you respond?

A: Most of my defense was that he was exercising his First Amendment rights. I wasn't calling anybody names; I wasn't calling the U.S. government crooked or anything like that. I was essentially raising a defense that people could understand. ... We took the position—as defense attorneys often do—that we're educating people. One of the greatest things about what I do is my opportunity to use the courtroom as a place to educate people about things they don't really know about.

Q: What's the worst part of the job?

A: The frustrating part about the system is that it isn't always right or always fair. Innocent people are sometimes convicted. Guilty people sometimes walk away. And you have to adjust to the notion that you are a participant in an imperfect system.

Q: Is there anything you want the general public to know about your field?

A: Most of the people who are involved in the practice of criminal law are involved because they love people. The idea is that in order to get justice in an imperfect system, someone has to fight for it. And that's what thousands of people are doing every day—many of them court-appointed, underpaid, overworked and what have you. But their dedication to the system of justice is what ought to be exalted, not the fact they represent a particular individual who may or may not be accused of something very serious or difficult to understand.

IRS

From Page 12

you my last name." They say it in a jokey manner. After that I usually just get a lot of tax questions.

Q: I bet that gets tiresome.

A: I guess sometimes it can. ... In the beginning I was a little reluctant to say I worked here, but I'm used to it now. People just make their joke and we move on from there.

Q: Is there one thing you wish the public knew about the IRS or the job of an agent?

A: A lot of people might think it's me personally going out there and taking them on, when I just try to explain that Congress sets the laws and rules, and I'm just doing my job—just like they're doing whatever job they have.

Q: Any tax advice for people?

A: Be sure you keep all your records. If you don't prepare your return—if somebody else does—make sure you still understand what's on your return. You are ultimately responsible for it.

The parking enforcement officer

WASHINGTON—Cheryl Wilkins, 42, walks her beat like a regular cop. She knows the neighborhood's faces and cars. Residents have invited her in for meals and turned to her to solve certain mysteries. She's all smiles, but she means business: She will ticket your car if you're one minute over the parking limit. Furious drivers have hurled every kind of invective at her, but the law's the law. Her job is to enforce it.

Wilkins, a mother of two who lives in Washington, has worked for the city's parking enforcement administration for nearly three years. She has developed a thick skin for both the weather and stormy attitudes. We spent an hour with her on a beautiful August morning to get closer to that heretofore faceless entity who leaves that nice pink slip under our wipers.

Q: What tricks do people pull to avoid a ticket?

A: Sometimes they'll move from one location to another inside the same zone. I'll have to go through and make sure my eyes aren't playing tricks on me. Their objective is to try and beat me.

Q: Can they?

(She shakes her head no, then tosses a "Happy Friday" to a pedestrian.)

Q: What's the best part of the job?

A: Being outdoors and meeting a variety of people.

Q: The worst part?

A: The irate citizens. The profanity. It's not every day. Usually people are mad at themselves. If their tone is too high, I'll say, "Hold on, calm down, let me explain." In most cases I allow them to vent first. A ticket can be just the trigger to something going on in their lives, and I'm just the person to take it out on. I maintain my voice. My focus is to not allow anyone else to hear me so I don't appear combative. If you cannot handle the public, you do not want this job.

Q: I bet you hear a lot of wild excuses.

A: Whenever I do, I say, "That is really a good one. I've never heard that before." That defuses the situation. I try to make a bad situation easier.

(She gets to a BMW on N Street.)

I want that car.

(She tickets it.)

Q: Any advice for drivers?

A: Blinkers are a red flag for us. Hazard lights are for emergencies, not for telling parking officers "I'll be right back." Take your time to observe all the signs: what you can't do and what you can do. And I'd ask people to give us respect, like us or not.

THE WASHINGTON POST

Without parking enforcement, streets would be jammed with scofflaws' cars. Cheryl Wilkins, who has worked for Washington's parking enforcement administration for nearly three years, has developed a thick skin for both the weather and stormy attitudes.

The baseball umpire

WASHINGTON—As part of his job, Dan Wilson has several thousand critics sitting behind him nearly every night of the week for six straight months. He's an umpire in the Atlantic League, a conference of eight minor league baseball teams spread along the Eastern Seaboard. When a player walks, the crowd cheers his good luck. When a player strikes out on a no-swing close call, the crowd boos and calls Wilson a bum.

Based in Kilgore, Texas, Wilson hops from hotel to hotel during the season, from Long Island, N.Y., to Waldorf, Md., the home of the Southern Maryland Blue Crabs. The 40-year-old toured through Maryland three times this summer to call games for the league, and he provided us with a glimpse of the man behind the mask.

Q: After 11 years of umpiring, do you still feel any pressure being surrounded by emotional fans who are perhaps intoxicated?

A: Major League umpires have more pressure because they got cameras on every angle, every play. Ours is a smaller scale. You've got four to six thousand fans that see a call differently. Sometimes they see it with their heart rather than their eyes.

Q: What's the most intense fan reaction you've gotten?

A: I worked a year in Venezuela doing winter ball. It's a different culture down there. Every night there would be things thrown on the field. You'd need to watch out for what's coming from behind. I got pelted with coins and oranges and beer caps. They even threw fireworks.

Q: You probably get managers and players giving you a hard time, too.

A: Absolutely, but it only APPEARS to happen every night because that's all they focus on on ESPN and "SportsCenter." But you look at the grand scheme, it's rare. It's a working relationship like any other job. ... You speak to who you're working with, and every now and then you have a little flare-up like any other job, and the next day you move and it's over and done with.

Q: What's the best part of the job?

A: The travel part is the good and bad of it. You see parts of the country you wouldn't normally see, but then you're away from home for six months out of the year. Eating out every day. Rarely a home-cooked meal.

Q: If you had a microphone and could address the stadium after they boo a good call, what would you say?

A: Part of it is they don't know the rules in some situations, and they think that every play that's called is a wide-open play. The tough plays are the ones we get crucified on. It's not as easy as we make it seem. Working the plate, you have about 300-plus decisions to make on balls and strikes each night. Some of them are pretty easy. But what we get paid to do is make borderline decisions.

United States

McCain names Alaska governor as VP choice

DAYTON, Ohio (AP)—Republican presidential candidate John McCain stunned the U.S. political establishment Friday and bolstered his image as a maverick by choosing the little-known female governor of Alaska as his running mate in the race again Democrat Barack Obama.

Sarah Palin offers risks and rewards for McCain. The choice of a 44-year-old, first-term governor to be his vice president could undermine one of McCain's main campaign themes: that Obama, a 47-year-old first-term senator, is too inexperienced to become president.

But Palin, whose nomination was announced Friday, could help McCain rally social conservatives, a core Republican constituency that has had an uneasy relationship with McCain. Palin has a strong anti-abortion record and opposes gay marriage.

"I have found the right partner to help me stand up to those who value their privileges over their responsibilities, who put power over principle, and put their interests before your needs," McCain told a crowd of supporters.

AP

Republican Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin speaks as Republican presidential candidate, Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., introduces her as his Vice Presidential running mate Friday, Aug. 29, 2008 at the Ervin J. Nutter Center in Dayton, Ohio.

Choosing a young, female unknown from outside the continental United States could buttress McCain's reputation as an unconventional candidate. Palin has her own reputation as a maverick for taking on corruption in her state's Republican Party. Both McCain and Obama are running against the political status quo, but Obama keeps noting that McCain has been in Washington for decades.

Palin could also help McCain's efforts to target supporters of former Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Rodham Clinton. Many Clinton backers are deeply disappointed that Obama upset her in the primaries, ending her campaign to become America's first female president, and then bypassed her for the vice presidency.

"It turns out the women of America aren't finished yet and we can shatter that glass ceiling once and for all," Palin said at a raucous rally with McCain in the swing state of Ohio.

However, working against Palin in that regard is that many Democratic women are strong supporters of abortion rights, which she strongly opposes.

McCain's choice also means that no matter who wins in November, history will be made as either the first black man will become president or the first woman vice president.

Vice presidential choices seldom have much effect on the presidential election. But McCain's choice received extra scrutiny because of his age and bouts with skin cancer. He turned 72 on Friday and would be the oldest, first-term president in U.S. history. If he dies or is incapacitated in office, Palin would succeed him—a point stressed by Obama's campaign.

McCain's VP choice is historic but hardly known

By STEVE QUINN and CALVIN WOODWARD
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITERS

JUNEAU, Alaska (AP)—In two short years, Sarah Palin moved from small-town mayor with a taste for mooseburgers to the governor's office and now—making history—to John McCain's side as the first female running mate on a Republican presidential ticket.

She has more experience catching fish than dealing with foreign policy or national affairs.

Talk about a rocketing ascent.

In turning to her, McCain picked an independent figure in his own mold, one who has taken on Alaska's powerful oil industry and, at age 44, is three years younger than Democratic presidential nominee Barack Obama and a generation younger than McCain, 72.

Palin's selection was a surprise, as McCain passed over many other better known prospects, some of whom had been the subject of intense speculation for weeks or months. "Holy cow," said her father, Chuck Heath, who got word something was up while driving to his remote hunting camp.

Palin had been in the running-mate field but as a distinct long shot.

She brings a strong anti-abortion stance to the ticket and opposes gay marriage—constitutionally banned in Alaska before her time—but exercised a veto that essentially granted benefits to gay state employees and their partners.

"She stands up for what's right, and she doesn't let anyone tell her to sit down." McCain said in introducing her to an Ohio rally. "She's exactly who I need."

Said Palin: "I didn't get into government to do the safe and easy things. A ship in harbor is safe, but that's not why the ship is built."

Democrats seized on the gaping experience gap and said McCain now has no business questioning the seasoning of their nominee.

Palin lives in Wasilla, a town of 6,500 about 30 miles (48 kilometers) north of Anchorage, with her husband, Todd, a blue-collar North Slope oil worker who won the 2007 Iron Dog, a 1,900-mile (3,058-kilometer) snowmobile race. He is part Yup'ik Eskimo. The two have spent summers fishing commercially for salmon, an enterprise that once left her with broken fingers aboard their boat.

Alaska Gov Sarah Palin, center, waves at the crowd during the 'Road to the Convention Rally' at the Erwin J. Nutter-Center Friday, Aug. 29, 2008 in Dayton, Ohio. With her are her husband Todd, and daughters Piper, center, and Bristol, background.

AP

Obama's speech seen by 38 million-plus viewers

NEW YORK (AP)—Barack Obama's audience for his acceptance speech likely topped 40 million people, and the Democratic gathering that nominated him was a more popular television event than any other political convention in history.

More people watched Obama speak from a packed stadium in Denver on Thursday than watched the Olympics opening ceremony in Beijing, the final "American Idol" or the Academy Awards this year, Nielsen Media Research said Friday. (Four playoff football games, including the Super Bowl between the Giants and Patriots, were seen by more than 40 million people.)

His TV audience nearly doubled the amount of people who watched John Kerry accept the Democratic nomination to run against President Bush four years ago. Kerry's speech was seen by a little more than 20 million people; Bush's acceptance speech to GOP delegates had 27.6 million viewers.

Through four days, the Democratic convention was seen in an average of 22.5 million households. No other convention - Republican or Democratic - had been seen in as many homes since Nielsen began keeping these records for the Kennedy-Nixon campaign in 1960. There weren't enough television sets in American homes to have possibly beaten this record in years before that.

Democratic presidential candidate, Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., hugs his wife, Michelle Obama, after giving his acceptance speech at the Democratic National Convention at Invesco Field at Mile High in Denver Thursday, Aug. 28, 2008.

AP

John Edwards to emerge from seclusion for speech

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP)—In a return to the public stage, John Edwards has confirmed plans to talk politics a month after admitting to an extramarital affair. But his wife won't be at his side.

A representative for the former Democratic presidential candidate confirmed Friday that he would speak alone at Hofstra University in New York on Sept. 8, school spokesman Stuart Vincent said. It was initially billed as a joint appearance to talk about the 2008 election, but Vincent said Elizabeth Edwards would not attend.

Dennis Goldford, a professor of politics at Drake University, said the rapid return to the stump could make it difficult for Edwards to overcome the anger of his former supporters. Edwards went into seclusion last month after spending the better part of the past six years on the trail - running for president twice, serving on the Democratic presidential ticket in 2004 and pushing to shrink the gap between rich and poor.

Asia

AP

Anti-government protesters push line of Metropolitan Police in Bangkok, Thailand, Friday, Aug. 29, 2008. Thai police muscled into crowds of anti-government protesters occupying the prime minister's office compound Friday to deliver a court order demanding they leave, sparking scuffles that left several people with minor injuries.

Pressure grows on Thai prime minister to resign

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP)—Thailand's prime minister faced growing pressure to resign as anti-government protesters occupied his headquarters for a fifth day Saturday and disrupted rail and air service in some of the country's most popular tourist destinations.

Prime Minister Samak Sundaravej made an unannounced trip to the southern town of Hua Hin to meet with Thailand's revered King Bhumibol Adulyadej, the Nation newspaper reported. Bhumibol is a constitutional monarch with no formal political role but has repeatedly brought calm in times of turbulence during his 60 years on the throne.

A Saturday morning downpour failed to disperse thousands of protesters camped out at the prime minister's Bangkok office compound, known as Government House, where leaders called for 1 million people to join their ranks to demand an end to Samak's seven-month tenure.

"The protest has already developed into a people's revolution," protest leader Sondhi Limthongkul told The Associated Press. "I do believe that Samak is going to resign."

Pakistan's presidential favorite under guard

Zardari

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP)—Pakistan's presidential front-runner has moved into a tightly guarded government compound over security fears, officials said as a militant campaign against the government led to more violence in the country's volatile northwest.

The army said Saturday at least 30 Taliban were killed in fresh air strikes.

The party of Asif Ali Zardari, the widower of slain ex-Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, has sought to assure the U.S. since Pervez Musharraf's ouster as president that it is committed to battling terrorists.

The country has been hit by a string of suicide bombings this month, including one last week that left 67 dead, many of them civilians.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Boat sinks in flooded northern India, killing 20

PATNA, India (AP)—Police say a boat rescuing people in a flooded area of northern India has capsized, killing 20 people. O. N. Bhaskar, the superintendent of police, says the accident occurred Friday night in Madhepura district, 95 miles northeast of Patna, the capital of Bihar state. Bhaskar says eight people swam to safety and 32 were rescued by the army rescue workers. Some 1.2 million people have been marooned and about 2 million more affected in Bihar state, where the Kosi river burst its banks, breached safety embankments and flooded vast areas.

Police in China shoot dead 6 suspects in Xinjiang

BEIJING (AP)—Chinese police investigating a spate of attacks this month in western Xinjiang province shot dead six suspects and arrested three others, state media reported. An exile group, meanwhile, accused police Saturday of gunning down the suspects, members of the Muslim Uighur ethnic minority, after they surrendered. Police encountered nine suspects in a corn field near the far western city of Kashgar on Friday evening, the official Xinhua News Agency reported. The suspects had knives and tried to resist arrest, putting up a "desperate struggle," it said late Friday. A policeman and a local militia man were wounded in the clash, the report said. Initial investigations linked the suspects to attacks on Aug. 12 and Aug. 27, Xinhua said. The report gave no other details.

Magnitude 5 quake hits Tibet, no damage reported

BEIJING (AP)—A magnitude 5 earthquake struck Tibet on Friday near the border with Nepal, close to an area hit earlier in the week by a stronger quake that damaged hundreds of homes. There were no immediate reports of damage or casualties from Friday's quake, which hit at 5:43 p.m., with its epicenter located about 240 miles (386 kilometers) northwest of Nepal's capital, Katmandu, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

US: More than 24 militants killed in Afghanistan

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—More than 24 militants were killed in two separate battles with U.S.-led coalition troops in Afghanistan, the coalition said Friday. More than a dozen militants were killed after they attacked a coalition base in Shaheed Hasas district of the southern Uruzgan province on Thursday, the coalition said. Two Afghan guards also died during the attack. Coalition troops responded with small arms fire, mortars and airstrikes, killing the militants, the coalition said. Separately, about a dozen militants were killed during a raid by coalition troops in eastern Paktika province, also on Thursday, the coalition said.

World

Mexico cops find pile of decapitated bodies

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Police in southern Mexico found two piles of decapitated bodies containing the remains of 11 men on Thursday.

Photos of the crime scene showed headless corpses stacked on top of one another in a field outside the city of Merida. Some of the bodies had tattoos and were jumbled amid blankets and tarps.

The heads were not immediately found.

Prosecutors say most of the men whose bodies were found decapitated in southern Mexico had criminal backgrounds. The crimes they had been accused of range from drug trafficking to assault and robbery. All had either been tried for or convicted of crimes.

The attorney general's office for the southern state of Yucatan said in a statement on Friday it had identified 10 of the 12 headless bodies found on Thursday.

It appeared to be the largest single group of beheadings in recent years in Mexico. The tactic has become more frequent in gangland-style killings, and the largest previous instance of decapitations occurred in 2006, when gunmen tossed five human heads into a bar in central Mexico.

The federal attorney general's office confirmed there were 11 dead and it was taking over the investigation—a move that usually indicates a case involves high-caliber weapons or drug trafficking, both federal offenses.

Merida, located on the Yucatan Peninsula, has largely been spared the drug-gang violence afflicting many other Mexican cities.

Georgia cuts diplomatic ties with Moscow

TBILISI, Georgia (AP)—Georgia severed diplomatic ties with Moscow on Friday to protest the presence of Russian troops on its territory. Russia said the move would only make things worse.

With European Union leaders set to discuss on Monday in Brussels how to deal with an increasingly assertive Russia, Prime Minister Vladimir Putin angrily warned Europe not to do America's bidding and said Moscow does not fear Western sanctions.

Russia has faced isolation over its offensive in Georgia and stands alone in its recognition of breakaway regions South Ossetia and Abkhazia. The U.S. and Europe have closed ranks in condemning Russia's actions but are struggling to find an effective response.

EU leaders are not expected to impose sanctions on Russia at their summit but may name a special envoy to Georgia to ensure that a cease-fire is observed, French and Belgian officials said.

Georgia's diplomats in Russia will leave Moscow on Saturday, the Foreign Ministry said. Georgia's leadership followed through on a call from lawmakers who voted late Thursday to break off ties with Russia.

AP

A truck drives across a flooded road caused by Tropical Storm Gustav in Kingston, Jamaica, Friday, Aug. 29, 2008. Gustav, which has killed 71 people in the Caribbean, drenched Jamaica and menaced the Cayman Islands on Friday.

Gustav plows through Cayman

GEORGE TOWN, Cayman Islands (AP)—Hurricane Gustav plowed through the Cayman Islands toward Cuba, gathering strength on a journey that could take it to the U.S. Gulf Coast as a fearsome Category-3 storm three years after Hurricane Katrina.

Gustav, which killed 71 people in the Caribbean, was swirled through the Caymans overnight with fierce winds that tore down trees and power lines. It was expected to cross Cuba's cigar country Saturday and head into the Gulf of Mexico by Sunday.

Gustav struck Cayman Brac and Little Cayman, the smaller easternmost "Sister Islands" in the chain. Storm surge and heavy rains flooded the streets as people hunkered down in darkness at home or government shelters.

"We're just trying to wait it out," said Juliana O'Connor-Connolly, who represents the islands in the Cayman legislature, by cell phone from the kitchen of her farm on Cayman Brac.

She said about 40 people were riding out the storm in her home, which at 65 feet (20 meters) elevation is safe from flooding but still vulnerable to winds that ripped out hundreds of fruit trees on the farm.

"The wind is just tremendous," O'Connor-Connolly said at the height of the storm. "They say it's 80 mph but it certainly seems to be over 100 mph, and I've been through lots of storms."

Karadzic makes defiant stand before UN court

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP)—Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic made a defiant stand before a U.N. court preparing to try him on genocide charges, refusing to enter pleas Friday and branding the tribunal a NATO proxy out to "liquidate" him.

Karadzic

Judge Iain Bonomy entered not guilty pleas on Karadzic's behalf on 11 counts, which also include charges of crimes against humanity, allowing pretrial proceedings to proceed even though he rejects the court's legitimacy.

Karadzic is charged with genocide for allegedly masterminding atrocities, including the slaughter of more than 8,000 Bosnian Muslims in Srebrenica in July 1995 and the deadly siege of Sarajevo, when he was president of the breakaway Bosnian Serb republic.

Focus

Losing the yeti in forgotten nation of Bhutan

By TIM SULLIVAN
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

Karchung, left, and Kelzang, belonging to Bhutan's ethnic Brokpa tribe, wait near a shop at Phongme, Bhutan, Monday, March 10, 2008. Even these Brokpas, who live deep in the forest and come out to cities very occasionally to exchange goods, did not believe in the existence of Yeti.

SIGNYAR, Bhutan (AP)—He remembers the darkness of the pine forest, and the footprints, and his terror when the creature began to howl. He remembers the stories of his childhood, of a beast that stalked the upper reaches of the mountains, and how fear spread through the village every time it was spotted.

In a remote Himalayan kingdom that held out against the modern world for as long as it could, the old man remembers a time when the yeti was a normal part of life.

"The creature has always been out there, and it's out there still," says Sonam Dorji, 77, sitting on the pock-marked wooden floor of his small farmhouse. It's a cold Himalayan morning, and he warms himself beside a wood stove. The smell of burning pine fills the room. "If you travel the ancient trails, even today, there's a good chance you'll meet him."

His son-in-law, listening to the old man's stories, laughs dismissively from across the room.

Tshering Sithar is 39, a bulldozer operator helping pave the road to this village, which until recently could only be reached on foot.

"What is there to say?" he asks. "There's nothing out there in the forest. Any educated person today knows this."

Many traditional beliefs remain deeply ingrained in Bhutan, from astrology to the worship of Buddhist priests. But the monster is now increasingly forgotten, and the link to an ancient past is more often seen as a sign of ignorance.

"We can't live today like we did in the 17th or 18th century. Our culture has to be dynamic," says Khandu Wangchuck, Bhutan's finance minister. "Within the last 40 years, we've jumped 300-400 years."

And the yeti? Wangchuck pauses. "I think most people today know this is just a story."

What does it mean, though, when accepted fact decays into mere folk tale? When a belief that helped tie a land together is relegated to myth, what happens to the culture that believed in it? And how can a country that entered the 20th century just a few years ago make its way in the globalized world of the 21st?

■ ■ ■ ■

In the West, yeti-like creatures long ago were reduced to myth. The Abominable Snowman is something from a "Scooby Doo" episode, or part of the latest installment in Hollywood's "Mummy" franchise. To mainstream science, the notion of Bigfoot is little more than a joke.

But across the Himalayas the beast was seen as real, known for generations in a half-dozen countries from Tibet to Pakistan. It was a region flush with wildlife, where tigers, bears and wild dogs roamed thick mountain forests and remote river valleys. Here, if nowhere else, the yeti was simply one more creature.

For Bhutan, a country barely noticed by much of the world, it became something even more.

In a nation stumbling nervously into modernity, the hulking mountain beast was publicly celebrated, becoming a 20th-century talisman against unbridled change and a link to ancient traditions. Stories of its travels were told by the king and top government officials. The Sakteng Wildlife Sanctuary, a large national park, was created in part as a place to protect it. Once Bhutan bothered to set up a postal system, in the early 1960s, it issued stamps honoring an animal that science insists does not exist.

"Everyone knew it was there," Dorji says. "It was like the bears or the leopards. Why would we question it?"

But change, a concept barely imaginable here just a few years ago, is accelerating quickly.

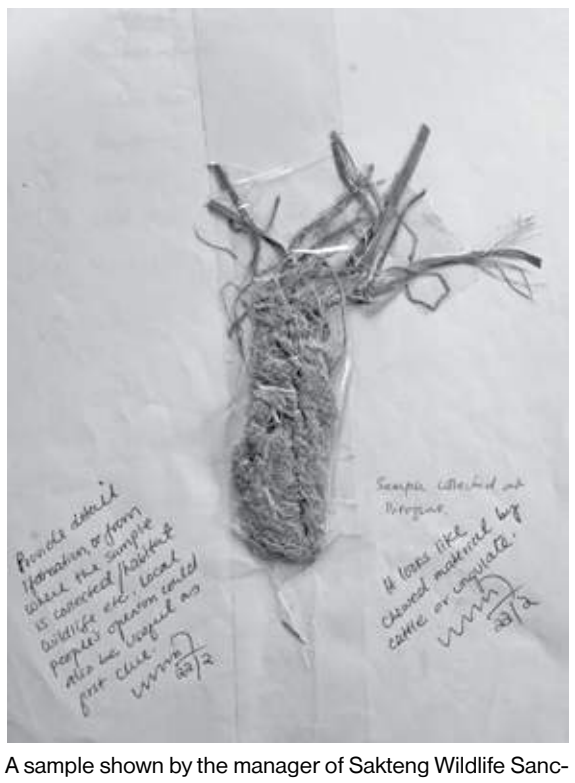
Until the early 1960s, Bhutan had sealed itself off for centuries, retreating behind the Himalayas to live as it always had—with life revolving around crop cycles, Buddhism, tiny feudal city-states and revered royalty. It had no roads, no electricity network, no currency. It had no postal system or telephones. Trade depended on barter. Tourists were barred.

Only after China invaded Tibet in 1959 did the king decree his country would not be fully closed off. At first, change came slowly: there were no paved roads until 1963, no tourists until the 1970s and no international phone service until the 1980s.

In the 1990s, though, things accelerated: Television arrived in 1999, the road network grew, the electricity grid blossomed. While tourism remains highly restricted—visitors must pay $220 per day, in advance, to get a visa—there were still 20,000 tourists last year, nearly ten times as many as in 1991. In a nation where kings held absolute power, March democratic elections brought in a generation of ambitious politicians.

Bhutan is a place where almost everyone was born in a village but where few people see a future in farming—and where a minuscule modern economy means there are precious few other jobs.

Thimphu, Bhutan's increasingly crowded capital, has everything from majestic royal palaces to microscopic traffic jams of a few dozen cars. On weekend nights, bored, unemployed young people brawl outside dance bars.


Provides details/ information of from where the sample is collected/found wildlife etc. local people opinion could also be required as per clue
It looks like chewed matrial by cattle or ungulate.

A sample shown by the manager of Sakteng Wildlife Sanctuary, collected from the park by Yeti watchers, shows comments mentioning the possibility of the specimen having been chewed by cattle rather than Yeti, at Phongme, Bhutan, Monday, March 10, 2008.

Suddenly, Bhutan has reached an uncomfortable crossroads. This is a time when the dynamism of modernity regularly clashes with modernity's pitfalls. Child mortality rates are plummeting, crime is on the rise and a college education is no longer just a dream.

It is a time when the yeti is increasingly unwelcome.

■ ■ ■ ■

No one is sure how far back the stories go.

In A.D. 79, the Roman scholar Pliny the Elder described immensely strong Himalayan animals with "human-like bodies." Chinese manuscripts from the 7th century mention hairy creatures similar to the yeti.

The tales change from region to region across Asia—yetis were man-eaters in some places, grass-eaters in others. In many places, the beast was seen as a harbinger of death, a combination of man, animal and demon.

Some things, though, were certain. It was tall, hairy and very strong. It lived mostly in the high mountains and avoided people. Only a handful of yak herders might report sightings with any regularity, but everyone knew it was out there, and feared it.

In Bhutan, most people call it the "migoi"—strong man—but it goes by any number of names across the Himalayas: glacier man, snow goblin, wild man.

To Westerners, though, it is known as the yeti—a name believed to come from a Tibetan word for bear—and it has gripped outsiders' imaginations since reports of a strange Himalayan creature began filtering out in the mid-20th century.

Mountaineers brought back many of the stories, telling of strange footprints in the snow, of mysterious animals spotted walking on two legs, of tales their porters told around campfires.

Just maybe, some thought, there could be truth in those tales. The high Himalayas are among the most isolated, forbidding parts of the world. Couldn't something—perhaps a species of gorilla, or even a form of proto-human—have hidden for centuries amid the crags?

Similar tales had proven accurate before. In 1902, a German soldier proved that central African legends of an enormous, hairy mountain beast were based in reality. But Capt. Robert von Beringe came home with proof: The body of a mountain gorilla that he had shot.

So the yeti hunt was on. In 1954, Britain's Daily Mail newspaper sent out a search party. In 1957, a Texas oilman took up the chase. Three years later, Everest conqueror Sir Edmund Hillary searched along the Nepal-Tibet border. In their wake came Soviet expeditions, TV crews, scientists and hucksters.

Plenty of tantalizing clues have been found, from footprints to hair. But science can explain most—they often turn out to be from bears—and five decades of searching has turned up no body, no high-quality photograph. Eventually, even many fervent yeti hunters see the truth in more prosaic explanations.

The great Italian climber Reinhold Messner spent years tracking yeti stories across the Himalayas and even caught a glimpse of it a couple times. But in the end, the truth was obvious to him. "All evidence," he wrote at the end of his travels, "points to a nocturnal species of brown bear."

■ ■ ■ ■

Or maybe not.

Ask politely, and Sangay Wangchuck will take you into a meeting room at the headquarters of Bhutan's conservation department and show you half a dozen framed plaster casts mounted on the wall. The frames show the outline of irregular grayish footprints around 12 inches long. All, according to small signs, come from yetis.

Wangchuck, the national director of conservation, knows what it is to wrestle with belief and science.

He has a master's degree from Yale and a doctorate from the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology. He's a scientist who oversees legions of rangers and researchers. His training tells him not to believe in something unless he has proof.

But the yeti stories run deep here, and denial means more than casting off an old belief.

"My parents, my village, they still believe," says Wangchuck, a genial, erudite man clearly pained by the twin pulls of science and his heritage.

So he speaks slowly when he talks about the yeti, words stumbling out in sentence fragments as he tries to straddle the line between the empirical and the emotional.

"As a biological entity, it's very difficult" to believe, says Wangchuck, looking down at his desk, covered with piles of papers. But does it exist? "It's very difficult to say no."

So this man of science has found a very unscientific middle ground. "I tell people: 'Let's not dig too much into it. Let's talk about it, but leave it at that, and not conclude 'Yes, it's there,' or 'No, it's not there.'"

Talk to most Bhutanese, though, and few have such quandaries.

See LOSING on next page

Life & Style

Stars over the moon about Obama's speech

By RYAN PEARSON
AP ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

DENVER (AP)—First word on Barack Obama's historic nomination acceptance speech from a bevy of celebrities in attendance was decidedly partisan: "It was excellent," Black Eyed Peas singer Fergie said. "It was amazing."

"Incredible," said Jessica Alba simply, before joining Fergie, Rosario Dawson, Wilmer Valderrama and Kerry Washington at a private exit from Invesco Field. Alba was at the speech with husband Cash Warren.

Other celebrities in attendance included George Lucas with girlfriend Mellody Hardon and his daughter, Forest Whitaker with wife Keisha and Star Jones, and Daniel Dae Kim of "Lost," who posed for pictures with the Hawaii delegation.

Next for Obama and his celebrity backers?

"What I hope happens is the country doesn't forget the jubilation and excitement that's been generated here," Kim said. "And I hope it turns into something that changes the world."

will.i.am performed his speech-song "Yes We Can" with John Legend during the run-up to Obama's speech. Susan Sarandon and Anne Hathaway sang along in the stands as Sheryl Crow performed "Change is Gonna Come," and crooner Michael McDonald prompted many a flag

AP

Actress Jessica Alba, center, her husband Cash Warren, left, and singer Fergie wave flags during the final session of the Democratic National Convention at Invesco Field in Denver, Thursday, Aug. 28, 2008.

wave with his rendition of "America the Beautiful."

■ ■ ■ ■

Oprah Winfrey left Denver with the candidate she wanted, but reportedly without her eyelashes.

The talk-show host said she was moved to tears by Obama's speech. And those must've been some serious tears.

"I cried my eyelashes off," she said in the bowels of Invesco Field, moments after Obama accepted the nomination for president before an estimated 84,000 people.

"I think it's the most powerful thing I have ever experienced," she added, calling Obama's words "transcendent." On the 45th anniversary of Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I have a Dream Speech," Winfrey compared Obama's words to those of the civil-rights leader, Franklin Delano Roosevelt and Abraham Lincoln.

"He's not an African-American candidate," she said. "He's a candidate for Americans."

Winfrey threw her support behind Obama early—even before the Democratic primaries got under way last year. She's stayed active since, hosting rallies and fundraisers that even Obama has acknowledged have given him a boost.

■ ■ ■ ■

Before singing the national anthem to a slowly filling stadium, Jennifer Hudson appeared lost in thought, wearing a casual gray dress and listening to iPod earphones as her handlers asked for directions to the podium. While waiting, she typed on a Sidekick.

"Fired up!" said an excited Spike Lee on the field. "Bigger than the Super Bowl!"

The only major party planned for Thursday night was an elite event sponsored by Vanity Fair and Google.

LOSING

From Page 19

Sonam Dorjee runs Om Bar, a Thimphu gathering spot popular among the rich, the royal and the well-connected. "I believe in it about like you do," says Dorjee, smiling. "These are stories for country people."

Later, driving through the nighttime Thimphu streets, he talks a little more. "Look, this country is changing so much. There's a lot of money here now, a lot of business. Some of these beliefs aren't going to survive."

Here's the thing, though, about how countries modernize: It's seldom a dramatic transformation from one era to the next, even in an isolated country like Bhutan. Instead, it's an inexorable slide that often remains invisible until—in retrospect—the change becomes obvious.

"The common belief is that traditionalism dissolves in the solvents of modernity," said Mark Dailey, an environmental anthropologist at Green Mountain College in Poultney, Vt., who has studied China's modernization. "That's an oversimplification."

The reality is that cultures change piecemeal, and often find themselves holding onto beliefs that can appear contradictory.

"People tend to be stubborn," said Dailey. "Traditional beliefs help root them."

Outwardly, this country holds tightly to its past, aggressively policing its own culture. Laws require everything from traditional dress—robes for men and ankle-length skirts for women—to historic styles for new buildings.

But legally mandated culture can be a strange beast, blurring the line between reality and fiction. It's increasingly easy to find places, particularly in tourist areas, where Bhutan can feel like a hollow, Bhutan-themed reproduction of itself, where even gas stations are ornamented with carved wooden pillars and where nearly everyone seems to ask if you've seen any traditional dancing yet.

Some of this is pure economics. Much of Bhutan's earnings come from tourists who come in search of beautiful mountain scenery, ancient beliefs and a society unsullied by the larger world.

"We want to attach an economic sense to the culture," says Khandu Wangchuck, the finance minister. The key players in the culture business—travel agencies, tour guides, hoteliers: "Their whole livelihood will depend on maintaining our culture."

The value of the yeti, on the other hand, is not what it once was.

"Our stories grew around things that we could not explain," says Kunzang Choden, a Bhutanese writer and folklorist.

Just a decade or so ago, the yeti helped explain the often intimidating natural world nearly everyone lived in—the nighttime shadows, the terrifying noises on lonely forest paths, the strange footprints. But increasingly, the sounds of the forest are drowned out by music played on cheap stereos smuggled in from China.

People who no longer need the yeti can dismiss it. Believing, Choden says, "is an implicit sign of being too traditional, or even backward."

■ ■ ■ ■

Which, in Bhutan, no one wants to be. Even the most traditional families dream these days of well-paying jobs for their children, of lives that will take them away from ancestral homes and centuries of rural life.

Dhau, a 53-year-old farmer who uses only one name, was raised and still lives in Zamsa, a small village separated from the nearest road by a cable bridge barely large enough for a bicycle. He grew up to be like his own father, and he once expected his children would grow up to be like him.

But today there's a primary school not far away, and three years ago electricity reached the village. He has an electric cooker and a ceiling fan that can chase away the clouds of monsoon insects. One of his children is in high school, boarding in town. Another is studying computers.

Asked if he wants them to move back home someday, he was stunned by the question.

"Of course not," he said, stopping to talk as he walked home from his fields on a cloudy afternoon. "Life is difficult here, not like in the towns. I want them to get government jobs and live easier lives."

By nearly all appearances, he is a man from another time—a subsistence farmer who works his fields with handmade tools and who holds tightly to a deeply mystical form of Buddhism. He believes fiercely in miracles and demons.

But like the tigers that roamed these forests a century ago, the yeti he once knew is gone. His children don't know about it, and he doesn't miss it. Its loss has left no obvious holes in his cultural soul. If it survives, he says, it went far away a long time ago.

"My parents used to talk about it, about meeting the huge man in the forest," he says. "But we don't talk about it now."

Then he walks away, following a dirt path toward a wooden house where electric lights now chase away the night and whatever might be hiding in its darkness.

THREE WISE GUYS

THE WASHINGTON POST

The Washington Post offers Three Wise Guys, from left, Justin Rude, Joe Heim and Dan Zak.

Gold medal, moon flag, sibling rivalry

By JOE HEIM, JUSTIN RUDE and DAN ZAK
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

Gentlemen (presumably): How much gold is there in an Olympic gold medal?—Michael

Justin: How's this for a kick in the Speedo: The gold medal is actually silver covered with about six grams of gold plating. Beijing's medals were inlaid with whitish jade, which symbolizes honor and virtue in China.

Joe: I thought fake fireworks and lip-syncing symbolized honor and virtue in China.

Dan: Let it be noted that an Olympic gold medal's six grams of gold were worth about $165 at the Opening Ceremonies Aug. 8. As of last week, they're worth about $160. Funny how the gold in Michael Phelps' eight-medal haul is materially worth $1,280, yet he's making tens of millions off its symbolism.

P.S.: If you're an Olympic champion who didn't get that lucrative endorsement deal, consider selling your medal now before the commodities index dips lower.

■ ■ ■ ■

Dear Wise Guys: Is our U.S. flag is still on the moon? If so, what condition is it in?—Matt

Dan: Uh, we're not sure if the flag is still there. We haven't had a good look at Apollo 11's landing site since the Apollo project was discontinued in the '70s. NASA assumes the flag stands, unless it was thrashed or crushed by errant meteorites, in which case those meteorites will be hunted down, apprehended and convicted of flag desecration.

Joe: Actually, we'll know next year whether the flag is there. NASA is scheduled to launch its Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter, which will map the moon. If the flag is missing, I blame the Russians.

Justin: That would be quite a feat since they've never walked on the moon.

Joe: Russian satellites have massive tentacles that can sweep out and grab anything in sight. I wouldn't put it past them.

■ ■ ■ ■

Dear Wise Guys: My office recently awarded me with a giant wooden plaque in appreciation of my hard work. I was thrilled and highly anticipated finally being the center of attention in my family. No more, I thought, would I be overshadowed by my sister's new house or my younger brother's SAT scores. Finally, at long last, it would be MY turn.

Until, not even 24 hours later, you "wise" guys started your motto marathon with the submission from Jeffrey, my older brother. Any attention I could have received has been usurped once again and, frankly, I am beyond depressed. Please tell me what I should do. Haven't you ever been in my position?—Sandy, the Middle-Child Syndrome Sufferer

Justin: Yes. Yes, I have. As an older brother, it's hard to not feel eclipsed when your sister's athletic accomplishments far surpass your own. Here is how I got over this: When I moved into my own place, I bought an entertainment unit with a trophy shelf. Then I drove to my parents' house and took all of my sister's awards from her closet and moved them to their new home above my television.

"My, you were quite the women's soccer player, weren't you," my friends would crack. "Yes," I would respond, "I was."

Joe: There's no point in sugarcoating it, Sandy. When it comes to achievements in life, the only things that matter are, in order: (1) SAT scores, (2) new houses and (3) snappy mottos.

■ ■ ■ ■

This week's motto: A Beacon of Light in Our Ever-Uncertain World (submitted by reader Emily Ale, of Oakton, Va.)

Have a question only the Three Wise Guys can answer? Send it to wiseguys@washpost.com and await their words of wise-dom.

Michael Jackson at 50: 'The best is yet to come'

NEW YORK (AP)—Michael Jackson marked a personal milestone Friday: his 50th birthday.

The 13-time Grammy winner, who has sold more than 750 million albums, told ABC News' "Good Morning America" that he's "looking forward to doing a lot of great things. ... I think the best is yet to come in my true humble opinion."

Jackson talked to ABC by phone Thursday.

"People see some of the things I do and they say, `Why don't you show this to the world? People don't know you do these things.' And maybe I will," he said.

Jackson said recording the blockbuster albums "Thriller" and "Off the Wall" were the happiest times of his life.

"That meant very much to me and seemed to be received so beautifully by the public and the world. You know, I enjoyed it very much," he said.

As for his birthday plans, "I'll just have a little cake with my children and we'll probably watch some cartoons," he said.

Jackson, a twice-divorced father of three, said he aims to provide a normal life for his children.

"I am letting them enjoy their childhood as much as possible. ... I let them go to the arcade and go to the movies and do things. I think that comes naturally. I want them to get to do things I didn't get to do," he said.

"I get pretty emotional when I see them having a wonderful time," he said.

Jackson was asked if he had received a membership card from AARP, which focuses on the needs and concerns of those 50 and older.

"Not that I know of!" he said, laughing.

U.S. pop singer Michael Jackson delivers his speech to fans during an event "Fan Appreciation Day" in Tokyo Friday, March 9, 2007. AP

Usher to help kick off NFL season with concert

NEW YORK (AP)—Like the NFL teams beginning their new seasons, Usher is hoping to go all the way to the Super Bowl.

The R&B singer will perform the season's kickoff concert on Thursday in New York's Columbus Circle along with Keith Urban and Natasha Bedingfield. The 3 p.m. concert will be held just before the season opener, when the Washington Redskins take on the Super Bowl champion New York Giants.

Like the Redskins and Giants, Usher is aiming for the big game in February. The game might be the destination of all football players, it's also one of the most sought-after gigs in music.

"I don't think it's too early to consider it," said Usher, speaking from Atlanta. "Certainly being associated with the organization makes that a lot more possible. There have been conversations for a lot of years about me being part of a performance at a Super Bowl."

AP

In this May 27, 2008 file photo, Usher appears onstage during MTV's "Total Request Live" at the MTV Times Square Studios Tuesday, May 27, 2008 in New York.

He added: "I'm hoping that this leads, definitely, to that. This whole process is basically you scratch my back, I'll scratch yours."

Usher feels that he's sufficiently built up his "brand" over the past decade - it can sometimes be easy to forget that the 29-year-old singer has been around that long. Recent Super Bowl performers include Prince and Tom Petty.

Last year, Usher married Tameka Foster and the couple had a son, Usher Raymond V. The onset of family life has brought out a more mature side of Usher, whose 2008 album "Here I Stand" deals considerably with growing into adulthood.

At the kickoff concert, which will stream on NFL.com, Usher plans to perform "Here I Stand," "Changing Places" and "What's Your Name" with guest star will.i.am.

Usher, who spent much of a his childhood in Tennessee, counts himself a Titans fan, and vividly recalls being at the 1999 Super Bowl and watching the Titans' Kevin Dyson fall one yard short of the end zone as time expired.

An expert dancer, Usher gives props to Randy Moss and Terrell Owens' endzone dances, but says their moves still fall short of another.

"The greatest end zone dance of all time has to be Cuba Gooding Jr.," said Usher, referring to the actor's dance in "Jerry Maguire." "The greatest of all time."

Trekkies pay final visits to Las Vegas attraction

LAS VEGAS (AP)—After a decade at the final frontier, Star Trek: The Experience is going where no Las Vegas Strip attraction wants to go.

With a decommissioning ceremony - as befits any great vessel - the exhibit and its replica of the starship Enterprise are closing Monday.

Thousands of trekkies are "beaming up" from across the United Federation of Planets, er, the United States and around the world one last time, according to exhibit spokesman Chad Boutte.

Some seek a final encounter with the Borg, the television show's race of organic robot aliens who tell everyone "resistance is futile." Others just want to share a farewell drink—likely a stiff Warp Core Breach, with 10 ounces of rum—with fellow fans at the attraction's restaurant.

Employees dressed as aliens discuss the minutiae of their worlds' mythologies with visitors who learn, in typically circular trekkie logic, that the exhibit is a "time station" for transporting researchers and equipment between the 21st and 24th centuries.

For $49.99, fans can enjoy two virtual rides and the Museum of the Future, with costumes, "phasers" and Mr. Spock's coffin. More than 3 million people have come through since the Experience opened in 1998.

In the end, the frontier the USS Enterprise couldn't breach was earthly: The attraction's owner, Cedar Fair Entertainment Co., and the Las Vegas Hilton, its landlord, couldn't agree on a new lease. They worked as a typical landlord and retail tenant, with Cedar Fair keeping all revenue from the attraction, said hotel spokesman Ira David Sternberg.

Trekkies are incensed. They've scrawled reminiscences about the exhibit on the walls inside, and they're calling Cedar Fair and the hotel to complain. But their online rumor that the space the exhibit occupies will become a theater for pop star Michael Jackson is unfounded, Sternberg said. He said nothing's decided.

Karen and Eric Klein, from Easton, Pa., had planned to renew their wedding vows at the Experience on their 10th anniversary but came this week instead, four years early.

A Federation captain told them during the ceremony on the bridge of the Enterprise that the energy between them created their love.

"He had his own schtick, and it was very beautiful, and it actually made the moment even that much better," said Eric Klein, 39, still holding his wife's hand outside the gift shop. "It wasn't simply being on the bridge, it really felt very emotional."

Theron attends 'Burning Plain' debut in Venice

VENICE, Italy (AP)—Guillermo Arriaga's directorial debut, "The Burning Plain," opens with a wide shot of a trailer ablaze in the New Mexico desert. While the landscape appears barren and exposed, it is concealing secrets that drive the story.

"The Burning Plain," written and directed by the "21 Grams" and "Babel" screenwriter, stars Charlize Theron as a troubled Oregon restaurant manager who is forced to confront her past when a mysterious visitor arrives from Mexico. Kim Basinger appears in flashbacks as Sylvia's mother, Gina, at a pivotal moment in her young life.

The film, which debuts at the Venice Film Festival on Friday, is one of 21 movies competing for the Golden Lion, which will be awarded Sept. 6. Directed by Mexico-born Arriaga, it is one of five U.S. pictures in competition.

Landscape is central to the movie—which Arriaga initially had titled, "The Four Elements." Water, earth, wind and fire are present as the story moves back and forth from the searing dryness of New Mexico to the nonstop rain in Portland, Ore.

"I have always been driven to the desert. I think the landscape itself influences people in a certain way," Arriaga told a news conference. "We experienced the desert and the sun and the extreme cold in the desert to the nonstop rain in Oregon. I think the weather and the landscape also influences the character."

Cinematographer Robert Elswit, who won an Oscar for "There Will Be Blood," was lauded by Arriaga for stunning shots of the New Mexico desert and Oregon coastline.

The movie is told through four converging plot lines, and cuts back and forth through time to reveal Sylvia's story.

"This is the exploration of the mystery of a woman called Sylvia who has an emotional journey that takes her to the extremes. It explores what makes her so damaged," Arriaga said.

No stranger to flawed characters, Theron said she loved the role of Sylvia.

"You should ask people that question. Why are people so flawed? Because that's who we are," Theron said. "Why is it when you watch a film and something happens that moves you—it either moves you to tears or gives a chill down your spine—it's because we can see ourselves in that moment."

Theron, who also worked as a producer on the film, said there was a list of actresses to play the role of Gina, but they were thrilled to get Basinger.

"She's amazing," Theron said. "There is something about Kim. There's a strength with her leftover vulnerability from her 20s that's just unbelievably beautiful to watch. There are moments on the screen when she's shaking, her entire body is shaking for real. You couldn't act that."

AP

Actress Charlize Theron arrives for the screening of the movie 'The burning plain' at the 65th edition of the Venice Film Festival in Venice, Italy, Friday, Aug. 29, 2008.

Aniston will make a return visit to NBC

In this April 14, 2007 file photo, actress Jennifer Aniston arrives to the 18th Annual GLAAD Media Awards at the Kodak Theater in Los Angeles.
AP

NEW YORK (AP)—Jennifer Aniston will return home to NBC, the TV network where she became a breakout star on the hit sitcom "Friends."

She's currently filming a guest appearance on the network's "30 Rock," Aniston publicist Stephen Huvane confirmed Friday.

There were no immediate details on the role Aniston will play—as herself or a fictitious character—or the episode's planned air date.

The New York-based series, which begins its third season in October, stars Tina Fey and Alec Baldwin in a behind-the-scenes, sometimes self-directed spoof of a television network and the huge corporation that owns it. The show has won a modest but devoted following, and critical raves. Awards include Golden Globes, a Peabody and last year's Emmy for outstanding comedy series.

With its show-biz slant, it has become a haven for guest appearances by big names from entertainment—even politics, including Al Gore.

Another of the six-member "Friends" troupe, David Schwimmer, had a "30 Rock" guest shot last season.

Since "Friends" concluded its highly successful 10-year run in 2004, Aniston has concentrated on films, including "Friends with Money," "The Break-Up."

Diddy halts private jet flights over fuel prices

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Fuel prices have grounded an unexpected frequent-flyer: Diddy.

Sean "Diddy" Combs complained about the "... too high" price of gas and pleaded for free oil from his "Saudi Arabia brothers and sisters" in a YouTube video posted Wednesday. The hip-hop mogul said he is now flying on commercial airlines instead of in private jets, which Combs said had previously cost him $200,000 and up for a roundtrip between New York and Los Angeles.

"I'm actually flying commercial," Diddy said before walking onto an airplane, sitting in a first-class seat and flashing his boarding pass to the camera. "That's how high gas prices are. I'm at the gate right now. This is really happening, proof gas prices are too high. Tell whoever the next president is we need to bring gas prices down."

AP
In this April 15, 2008 file photo Sean "Diddy" Combs makes an appearance at MTV Studio's in Times Square for MTV's "Total Request Live" show in New York.

Winfrey opens season with Phelps, other Olympians

CHICAGO (AP)—Gold medalists Michael Phelps, Nastia Liukin and Kobe Bryant, along with 150 other U.S. Olympic team members, will be on the season premiere of "The Oprah Winfrey Show."

Winfrey plans to tape the show at Chicago's Millennium Park on Wednesday.

Harpo Productions says Winfrey intends the show as a "welcome home celebration" and a chance to showcase Chicago as the city bids for the 2016 Summer Olympics.

Other athletes expected to attend include the beach volleyball gold medal team of Misty May-Treanor and Kerri Walsh, gold medal basketball players Carmelo Anthony, Lisa Leslie and Dwyane Wade, and silver medal swimmer Dara Torres.

The 23rd season premiere of Winfrey's talk show will air September 8th.

AP
In this image released by Disney, Olympic gold medalist Michael Phelps waves to the crowd, Friday, Aug. 29, 2008, during a parade at the Magic Kingdom in Lake Buena Vista, Fla. Phelps, who took home a record-breaking eight gold medals from the Beijing Games, rode through the Magic Kingdom with Mickey Mouse on Friday as part of the "America's Homecoming Parade" at the park.

Iranian film explores transsexual world

VENICE, Italy (AP)—Organizers of the Venice Film Festival waited to announce "Khastegi (Tedium)" by first-time Iranian director Bahman Motamedian until the last minute to avoid alerting authorities to its sensitive subject: transsexuals in modern-day Iran.

The struggles of seven transsexuals depicted in the film are made more complicated by Iran's strict gender codes and cultural obstacles. But Motamedian, who is best known in Iran for theater work, insists the problems they face are universal to transsexuals anywhere in the world: finding their identity and seeking acceptance from their families.

"We know that throughout the world this problems exists," Motamedian said. "The idea was to raise awareness among families especially, because this is the first layer of barrier, and to help people to realize they are not alone and be able to face the problem."

Motamedian said he was inspired by the Italian neo-realists in his filmmaking, and for the movie he cast transsexuals, not professional actors, to act a role that he created.

"The cast I worked with had no cinematic training, which I thought would be useful to access things that a professional actor wouldn't be capable," Motamedian said.

"Usually an actor is trained to show things. I thought it was important to show what a person was hiding," he told a news conference Friday.

"Tedium," which is being shown out of competition, delves into the lives of seven transsexuals as they struggle with the question of whether they can find true romantic love, whether to go through with a sex change operation, how to tell their families—and in one case, a wife—and whether to remain in Iran.

Student's transfer would mean loss of scholarship

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DearAbby

DEAR ABBY: My son is the recipient of a four-year college scholarship with full tuition. He selected and applied to this school. The problem is, he now wants to transfer to another college. This means he would finish his sophomore year and give up two years of the scholarship.

The reason he has given us is "a lot of his friends go there." I have been upset over this to the point of tears. We're a working-class family that struggles to cover the cost of his dorm and his meals. My son says I'm being difficult. How does a parent handle this?

THINKING AHEAD IN GADSDEN, ALA.

DEAR THINKING AHEAD: If you haven't already done so, you and your husband should sit down, explain the financial realities of his changing schools, and ask him how he plans to pay for his education in the absence of his scholarship. If he is prepared to take student loans and work his way through, then as a young ADULT, that is what he will have to do. You can advise against it, but the choice will be his and so will the consequences. Be sure he's fully informed.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I am 11 years old. My problem is my dad won't spend time with me. He always has friends over, or he's too tired. I have written letters to him to hang with me and how I feel. Now what should I do?

LONELY GIRL IN MAINE

DEAR LONELY GIRL: Because you have already tried getting through to your father, ask your mother to talk to him about his priorities. Perhaps another adult can help him understand that spending time with you is more important than hanging with his buddies.

Believe me, you have my sympathy. When fathers were handed out, you got one who doesn't understand the responsibilities that go along with being a parent. It is very important that you recognize that this in no way is a reflection on YOU.

If, after your mother speaks to your dad, he still doesn't see the light, then rather than brood, try filling your time with other things such as Girl Scouting, sports, hobbies and church youth activities. In the end, the loss will be your father's because these are important years that he will never be able to get back or do over again.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I work in a restaurant, and one of the biggest complaints I hear every summer is how cold it is inside. We keep the temperature set at a constant 72 degrees year-round. Could you please remind people that for the comfort and safety of those who are cooking and serving that it needs to be slightly cooler inside? Please bring a sweater for your comfort. Even 72 degrees is not cool enough when you're working in a restaurant.

HOT IN NEW PARIS, OHIO

DEAR HOT: As someone who has frozen my behind off in more restaurants that I can count, your customers have my sympathy. Because this is a complaint you receive every summer, someone should suggest to your manager that the air-conditioning system be checked by a professional to ensure it is operating properly -- and that all areas of the restaurant are properly balanced.

Because this problem occurs so often in the summer, of course women should bring along something to cover their shoulders. Men are lucky. Most don't have this problem because nature blessed them with their own natural fur coats.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." To order, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

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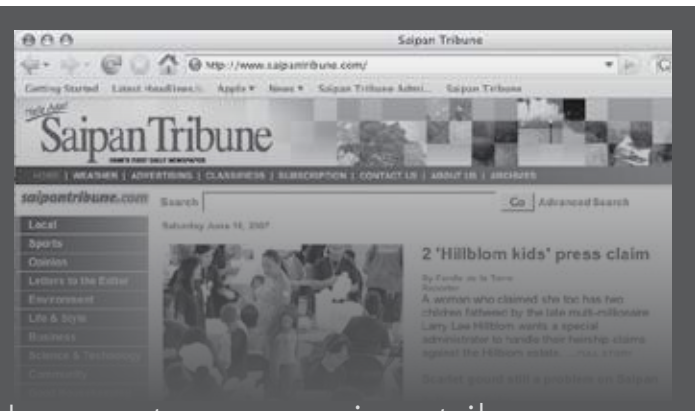

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235- NEWS

Zobrist hits grand slam as Rays rout Orioles

ST. PETERSBURG (AP)—Ben Zobrist hit a grand slam, Cliff Floyd drove in five runs and the AL East-leading Tampa Bay Rays guaranteed their first-ever winning season with a 14-3 rout of the Baltimore Orioles on Friday night.

Floyd had a two-run double, Zobrist hit his slam and Gabe Gross added a solo shot during a seven-run fourth that made it 10-0.

Scott Kazmir (10-6) allowed three hits and three walks over 5 1-3 scoreless innings. The left-hander has won 10 games or more in four straight seasons. Tampa Bay joined the 1968 Oakland Athletics as the only teams to have five pitchers 26 years old or younger with 20 starts and 10 wins in the same season.

Tampa Bay (82-51) is 4 1/2 games ahead of second-place Boston, which beat the Chicago White Sox 8-0. The Rays, an AL-best 50-19 at home, had never won more than 70 games in a season before this year.

Carlos Pena and Floyd drew bases-load walks—the last two of four consecutive two-out walks by Jeremy Guthrie (10-11)—to give the Rays a 3-0 lead in the second.

Red Sox 8, White Sox 0

In Boston, Daisuke Matsuzaka allowed two hits in eight innings, Dustin Pedroia had four hits and Jason Bay drove in three runs to lead Boston past Chicago.

Coming off a 6-3 road trip and with Josh Beckett placed on the disabled list, Boston used Matsuzaka (16-2) in his place against the AL Central leaders. He pitched one of his most efficient games of a season in which he's been among the AL ERA lead while giving up the most walks in the AL.

He struck out seven, walked two and threw 104 pitches. His 16 wins tied Hideo Nomo's single-season record for the most by a native of Japan.

Bay's three-run double in the sixth put Boston ahead 7-0 and gave him 27 RBIs in 25 games since a three-way trade on July 31 that brought him from Pittsburgh and sent Manny Ramirez to the Los Angeles Dodgers.

The Red Sox knocked out Javier Vazquez (10-12) during a four-run sixth highlighted by Bay's hit. Vazquez allowed 10 hits and five runs—three earned— in 5 2-3 innings.

The White Sox, who came in with a 1 1/2 -game lead on the Minnesota Twins in the AL Central, lost their second straight.

Yankees 2, Blue Jays 1

In New York, Carl Pavano held down Toronto in his first start at Yankee Stadium since opening day last year, and New York managed just enough offense to beat A.J. Burnett.

Jason Giambi and Bobby Abreu drove in runs for the Yankees, who won for the 18th time this season when scoring three runs or fewer. They were 6-36 in those games last year.

Pavano (2-0) drew a smattering of applause from a sellout crowd when he stepped to the mound for just his 21st start with the Yankees since signing a four-year contract worth nearly $40 million before the 2005 season. He gave up three hits and a run over six innings, and Mariano Rivera got the final five outs for his 32nd save.

Burnett (16-10) allowed only seven hits in a complete game, but lost for the first time in four starts this season against New York. His winning streak ended at six.

Tigers 6, Royals 3

In Detroit, Curtis Granderson and Jeff Larish both drove in two runs and Detroit scored all its runs in the fifth inning to beat Kansas City.

Zach Miner (8-4) allowed a run and six hits in six innings as the Tigers snapped a four-game losing streak.

Mark Teahen homered for Kansas City, which has lost 11 of 12. The Royals' only win in that stretch was over the Tigers last Sunday.

Royals starter Kyle Davies (5-6) gave up six runs—two earned—and six hits in 4 2-3 innings.

Mariners 3, Indians 2

In Cleveland, Felix Hernandez stopped baseball's hottest team, Raul Ibanez homered and drove in three runs and lowly Seattle ended Cleveland's 10-game winning streak.

Hernandez (9-8) allowed two runs and six hits in six innings for his first win in six road starts. The right-hander held the Indians to 0-for-9 with runners in scoring position.

Seattle closer J.J. Putz, who had blown four of his previous six save chances, worked a 1-One of baseball's best hitters in August, Ibanez put the Mariners ahead 3-0 in the third off Jeremy Sowers (2-7) with his 22nd homer. He's hitting .396 with seven homers and 28 RBIs this month.

Mets 5, Marlins 4

In Miami, Carlos Beltran hit a grand slam with two outs in the ninth inning off Kevin Gregg, and the bullpen held on for the New York Mets in a 5-4 win over the Florida Marlins on Friday night.

Before Beltran's homer, the Mets were 1-for-7 with runners in scoring position. Trailing 2-1, they left the bases loaded in the seventh and stranded two in the eighth.

Gregg (6-8) retired the first two batters in the ninth, and New York was down to its final strike when Luis Castillo singled on a 1-2 pitch. David Wright also singled, Carlos Delgado was hit by a pitch and Beltran pulled the first pitch over the right-field wall.

Luis Ayala earned his third save despite giving up four hits in the ninth, including an RBI single by pinch hitter Mike Jacobs and a run-scoring double by Jorge Cantu. Wes Helms grounded out with runners at second and third to end the game.

Joe Smith (2-3) pitched a scoreless eighth. Beltran's homer was his 20th, and he drove in all five New York runs.

The grand slam left the third-place Marlins reeling at the start of a big weekend series. They've been fading in the NL East and fell seven games behind the Mets, who increased their lead over second-place Philadelphia to two games.

Cubs 3, Phillies 2

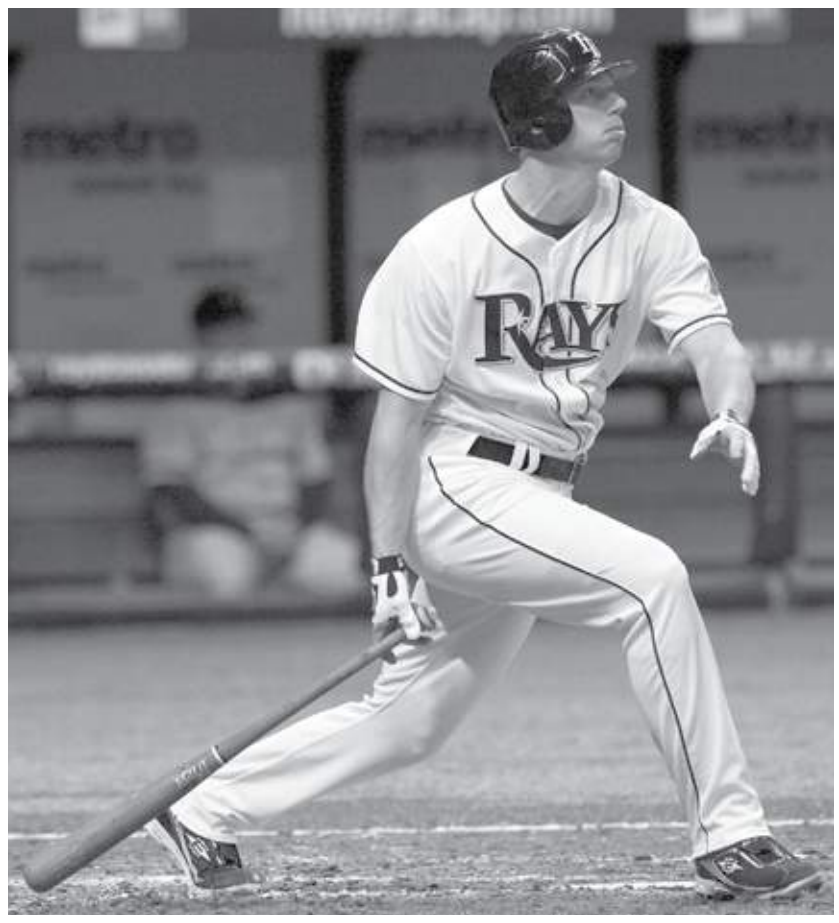
In Chicago Alfonso Soriano hit a tie-breaking homer in the seventh inning, and Chicago beat Philadelphia for its seventh straight win.

Soriano's first homer in 15 days and 23rd of the season came off Clay Condrey (3-4). Chicago made the most of four hits and improved to a major league-best 85-50, including 51-19 at Wrigley Field.

Philadelphia had put runners at the corners with two outs in the top of the seventh before Ryan Howard's hard grounder went off Derrek Lee. The first baseman retrieved the ball and flipped to pitcher Jeff Samardzija for the out, but replays showed Howard beat the throw. Phillies third-base coach Steve Smith was ejected by plate umpire Bill Welke during the ensuing argument.

Samardzija (1-0), a former Notre Dame receiver, got his first major league win. Carlos Marmol struck out two with two on in the eighth and pitched a perfect ninth for his seventh save in nine chances.

Philadelphia lost its third in a row and fell two games behind the NL East-leading New York Mets.



AP

Tampa Bay Rays' Ben Zobrist hits a grand slam off Baltimore Orioles reliever Fernando Cabrera during the fourth inning of a baseball game Friday, Aug. 29, 2008 in St. Petersburg, Fla.

Brewers 3, Pirates 1

In Pittsburgh, Ryan Braun hit a three-run home run, and Milwaukee handed Pittsburgh its eighth straight loss.

Dave Bush (9-9) allowed one run in 6 2-3 innings for Milwaukee, which expanded its lead to 4 1/2 games over St. Louis in the NL wild-card race.

Salomon Torres picked up his 26th save for the Brewers, who have won six of seven and improved to 9-1 against Pittsburgh this season.

Nate McLouth homered and had two hits for the Pirates, who have lost 12 of 14 games.

Braun's 34th home run of the season came in the first inning against Tom Gorzelanny (6-9). Rickie Weeks singled and J.J. Hardy walked in front of the Milwaukee left fielder.

Gorzelanny, who retired 21 of 24 batters after Braun's home run, allowed three runs and four hits in seven innings. He's now lost his past three starts, all to Milwaukee.

Astros 3, Cardinals 2

In Houston, Lance Berkman hit a game-ending solo home run off former teammate Russ Springer to lift Houston over St. Louis.

Berkman's 27th homer on a 2-1 pitch from Springer (2-1) hit off the facade in left field, and fireworks exploded while he rounded the bases. The Astros raced out of the dugout, and Berkman flipped his helmet in the air as he leaped onto home plate.

Doug Brocail (6-5) pitched a scoreless ninth in relief to earn the win. The Cardinals wasted a stellar start from Kyle Lohse, who allowed two runs on seven hits in eight strong innings.

David Newhan hit a two-run homer off Lohse in the seventh after Lohse had stifled the Astros most of the night. Lohse lost for the first time in four starts against Houston this season.

Astros starter Randy Wolf matched Lohse for six innings, allowing one earned run and three hits.

Red 11, Giants 7

In Cincinnati, Edwin Encarnacion hit his second career grand slam off Barry Zito, and Chris Dickerson homered and drove in four runs to help Cincinnati to just its ninth win in the past 32 games.

The Reds' best offensive showing since they traded Ken Griffey Jr. and Adam Dunn helped All-Star right-hander Edinson Volquez (16-5) get another milestone win.

This one wasn't his best—six runs in 5 1-3 innings—but was good enough to get him the most wins for a Reds pitcher since 1988, when left-hander Danny Jackson won 23.

Zito (8-16) gave up eight runs—seven earned—in 3 1-3 innings, a line eerily similar to an April outing against Cincinnati that resulted in him being banished to the bullpen. The 2002 AL Cy Young winner is the first major leaguer to lose 16 games this season.

Nationals 7, Braves 3

In Washington, Lastings Milledge and Ryan Zimmerman both drove in two runs and Washington beat Atlanta for a season-high fourth straight win.

Odalis Perez (6-10) allowed three runs—two earned—and seven hits in 6 1-3 innings to win for the first time in four starts. The left-hander walked two and struck out three.

Joel Hanrahan, the sixth Washington pitcher, got the final two outs for his seventh save.

Cristian Guzman, who became the second National to hit for the cycle in Thursday night's victory over the Los Angeles Dodgers, had two hits and is on an 11-for-18 tear.

Atlanta's Jorge Campillo (7-7) went 3 1-3 innings, allowing five runs and eight hits. He walked three and struck out three

Colts' Manning expects to start vs. Bears

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—Peyton Manning expects to be in the starting lineup when the Indianapolis Colts open the season against the Chicago Bears.

The Colts quarterback, who underwent knee surgery in July, was activated Tuesday and went through a pregame workout with the team before the final preseason game Thursday night. He and the rest of the team went through a short practice Friday before coach Tony Dungy sent them home for the weekend.

Manning

"I don't really want to get into daily progress reports of how it went. But it was something that we decided to do last week," Manning said of his increased workload in practice. "We're going to just keep progressing this weekend and going through next week. And hopefully we can just keep feeling better."

He said he felt fine after the pregame routine Thursday night.

"It was good to get back there, doing the same things the rest of the guys were doing. Having to do rehab, having to miss practice, it's not really the situation that you want to be in," Manning said. "So it was good to get back out there, get in uniform, be around the guys. And hopefully that can be the sort of the norm from here on out."

The Colts, 1-4 in the preseason, open against the Bears on Sept. 7 in the new Lucas Oil Stadium.

"Certainly I've been preparing for the season opener for some time from a film standpoint. It's good to get back out there on the field and do more physical activity," Manning said. "I feel I got in some good practices this week. I thought that was important."

Federer cruises, Kutznetsova loses at US Open

NEW YORK (AP)—Roger Federer flicked a final winner, trotted to the net and started to shake hands. Then, there was one last challenge.

Playfully, Thiago Alves called for a replay review.

So the man trying for his fifth straight U.S. Open title and an overmatched qualifier shared a laugh, watching together as the giant scoreboards above Arthur Ashe Stadium confirmed the call: The ball landed squarely on the line, Federer had won 6-3, 7-5, 6-4 Friday.

Federer swept a guy ranked 137th, someone who spent this year in the minors and was playing his first tour-level event of the season. Still, it was hardly a breeze.

"The depth in men's tennis is immense," Federer said.

On the women's side, it's shaping up as even more of a scramble.

A day after No. 1 Ana Ivanovic lost to 188th-ranked Julie Coin, third-seeded Svetlana Kutznetsova became the latest upset victim when Katarina Srebotnik beat her 6-3, 6-7 (1), 6-3.

"It can happen with everyone," said Olympic champion Elena Dementieva, who moved into the fourth round.

Novak Djokovic, Jelena Jankovic and Nikolay Davydenko also advanced. The night session featured Andy Roddick, along with No. 23 Lindsay Davenport taking on No. 12 Marion Bartoli.

Federer is down to his last chance to win a Grand Slam this year, part of a tough season that saw him lose his No. 1 ranking to Rafael Nadal.

Though they well could meet in this final, Federer has not tracked his nemesis through the tournament and didn't watch Nadal wrap up his match Thursday night in straight sets.

"I schedule my life around my life, not his," Federer said, smiling. "I was expecting five sets. I was there for four and five, but he wasn't there anymore."

To Alves, Federer remains on top.

"He is the biggest player for sure. Nadal is playing good tennis this year, but for me Federer is the best one," he said.

And did Federer seem vulnerable?

"No. I didn't feel that," Alves said.

Never a huge fan of replay, Federer hardly minded when Alves made that last challenge.

"I don't think it's affected a whole lot of matches. I don't know how many times it's saved a match, because that's what it's there for really. But at the big tournaments at the big courts, usually you have the best linespeople as well," Federer said.

"The worst linespeople are usually on the outside courts where you need it more. That's the problem with the system," he said.

Kuznetsova, who won the Open in 2004 and finished second last year, had trouble fending off Srebotnik's frequent charges to the net.

Srebotnik fell to her knees a split-second before Kuznetsova's last shot sailed over the baseline. After beating Serena Williams in the French Open this year, the 28th-ranked Slovenian had another reason to celebrate, having gone farther than ever before at Flushing Meadows.

Second-seeded Jankovic won another sneaker squeaker, playing 28 points in the last game to finish off Zheng Jie 7-5, 7-5.

Jankovic came out full of energy, showing no ill effects of a bad left leg that cramped after she played Wednesday. She bounded back and forth and, in her trademark style, often came to screeching stops while doing the splits to reach shots.

"As long as I'm doing the splits, that means I'm healthy," she said. "When I'm not doing the splits, you know there's something wrong."

"I'm not too sure about my body if I go into a split, who knows if I'll come back up?" she said.

Still waiting for that elusive big win, Jankovic is trying to reach her first Grand Slam final. She needs three more wins- with Justine Henin retired, Maria Sharapova hurt, Ivanovic out and the Williams sisters in the opposite bracket, this figures to be her best chance.

Jankovic needed more than two hours to beat the 37th-ranked Zheng after playing for nearly three hours in the second round.

"I wish I didn't have any drama in my matches. I wish I would win nice and in a simple way," she said. "Who likes drama? Do you know anybody that likes to get involved into tight matches?"

Jankovic is one of six women who still have a chance to be ranked No. 1 after the Open, with Ivanovic among them despite her loss.

Third-seeded Djokovic beat Robert Kendrick 7-6 (8), 6-4, 6-4 and fifth-seeded Davydenko beat Agustin Calleri 6-4, 6-4, 7-6 (2). Fifth-seeded Dementieva beat Anne Keothavong 6-3, 6-4.

AP

Roger Federer of Switzerland, reaches for a shot against Thiago Alves of Brazil, during their match at the U.S. Open tennis tournament in New York, Friday, Aug. 29, 2008.

Weir shoots a career-low 61 for lead at Boston

NORTON, Mass. (AP)—Mike Weir shaved his "playoff beard" when his wife and children flew into town this week, but that had no bearing on his golf Friday. This was a round to enjoy, not explain.

Determined to get off to a better start, Weir birdied the first four holes and one-putted his final nine greens in the Deutsche Bank Championship to tie the course record at TPC Boston with a 10-under 61, the lowest round of his PGA Tour career.

Weir had a three-shot lead over a group of four players that included Vijay Singh, whose victory last week at The Barclays put him atop the standings in the PGA Tour Playoffs for the FedEx Cup.

Singh previously had the TPC Boston course record to himself, a 61 in the third round two years ago. And the Fijian set the tone for a day of low scores when he ran off five birdies in a six-hole stretch for a 64.

It took Weir only 10 holes to catch him.

"There was no indication on the putting green when I was warming up that was going to tell me it was going to be like that," Weir said. "It just felt normal. Just one of those days where I made about a 15-footer on the first hole, another on the second hole. ... I just kind of built on that momentum.

"I just tried to keep the pedal down, because I knew the scores were pretty low."

John Merrick, Heath Slocum and Briny Baird joined Singh at 64, while Ben Curtis had a 65. Ernie Els and Jim Furyk were in a large group another stroke back. More than half of the 115-man field shot in the 60s, and only 23 players failed to break par.

Even so, Weir never saw a 61 coming.

In his 20 previous stroke-play events this year, he had shot in the 60s only one time, at the Canadian Open.

"It's been kind of my goal the last month or so to get off to better starts in tournaments," he said. "It seems like I've been having to come from behind. I've just put it in my to try to get off to a better start. Obviously, this was way exceeding my expectations."

Only three of his birdie putts were inside 10 feet, including a 5-footer on the 18th that gave him his career low on tour, one shot better than a 62 in the first round at Doral seven years ago.

The only noticeable difference was a clean-shaven face.

Weir had been on vacation when he grew a light beard, and he kept it for the first round of the playoffs last week at The Barclays, where he tied for seventh. He also stars in a PGA Tour commercial with Wayne Gretzky, who urges Weir to grow a playoff beard as if these were the Stanley Cup playoffs.

But when his wife and daughters (ages 10 and 8) arrived on Tuesday and his girls wouldn't kiss him, Weir gave each a razor and let them start stripping away the beard.

The playoff atmosphere was not as great as last year, perhaps because Tiger Woods isn't around to make his playoff debut, and there wasn't the star power centered on one group as there was last year when Woods, Singh and Phil Mickelson played the first two rounds.

Mickelson, the defending champion, suffered through a familiar malaise. He hit the ball fine, but 31 putts kept in the middle of the pack at a 69.

The worst score belonged to British Open and PGA champion Padraig Harrington, who was in decent shape in the fairway on the par-5 18th until trying to play out of a water hazard, hitting another shot off a rock and into the water and missing a 6-foot putt on his way to a triple-bogey 8.

AP

Mike Weir waves to the crowd after finishing his first round at the Deutsche Bank Championship golf tournament Friday, Aug. 29, 2008, in Norton, Mass. Weir finished the first round, tying the course record, at 10-under par 61.

Grizzlies sign Iranian Olympian Haddadi

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)—The Memphis Grizzlies signed free-agent center Hamed Haddadi, who played for the Iranian national team in the Olympics.

Signing came just over a week after the NBA cleared all the immigration hurdles and received government approval.

While terms of the deal were not disclosed, sources stated that he signed a multi-year deal equivalent to that of a mid-first-round draft pick.

The 7-foot-2, 254-pound Haddadi averaged 16.6 points, 11.2 rebounds and 2.6 blocks in Beijing.

The 23-year-old Haddadi spent the 2007-08 season playing for Saba Battery BC in the Iranian Super League. He will become the first Iranian to play in the NBA.

In NBA related story, San Antonio Spurs guard Manu Ginobili, who helped lead Argentina to a bronze medal in the Beijing Olympics, will need surgery to repair a ligament injury in his left ankle.

The Spurs said Friday that Ginobili will have surgery next week. The team will announce Ginobili said an MRI of his ankle showed no improvement from a previous exam two months ago. He led the Spurs in scoring last season (19.5 points) and won the league's sixth man award.

"They're going to operate on me," the 31-year-old Ginobili told Argentina's La Nacion newspaper Friday. "It's not worse, which is important. Now, the thing is, it's not better either, and it seems like the only way to repair it completely is arthroscopic surgery."

Spurs coach Gregg Popovich had urged Ginobili not to compete in the Olympics unless the injury improved. But he was cleared to play and not only competed in the games, he carried the flag for Argentina at the Opening Ceremonies in Beijing.

Corrections zeroes in on win against Autonomous

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Unless Autonomous make a major recovery, victory is in the bag for the Department of Corrections, which was leading, 82-62, Thursday night in the Inaugural PTI Inter-Government/Business Basketball League at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The Autonomous-DOC tiff was suspended with three minutes, .02 seconds left in the fourth quarter.

The culprit?

Your guess is as good as this reporter's: Power outage.

Power turning off during matches in the PTI caging has been a usual happening at the Ada gym, but players still get frustrated having to go home with an unfinished business.

Corrections was all fired up after pulling away in the third period only to have its momentum halted in the last three minutes of the game.

For Autonomous, it had already thrown the towel midway in the fourth quarter, letting Corrections made easy baskets, but the defending champion had to prolong its agony for three more minutes with the suspension of the match.

League organizers have yet to schedule the continuation of the game, but ATM has an option not to continue the match with Corrections leading by a big margin. In the past, power outage-halted matches were not resumed, especially if results will not hurt the teams' chances in the playoffs. Last week, Aguguat decided not to continue its game with PTI, which was leading, 78-63, with less than four minutes left in the match. The win was PTI's ninth in 10 games.

Thursday night's match had Autonomous playing with a depleted lineup. It had only six players available for the game and it was down to five in the second quarter when Everly Pangelinan got injured.

Autonomous was still in the game in the first period and even took the lead at 20-16, with Steve Rasa muscling his way in the paint, scoring 10 points.

That was the last time ATM led, as DOC began seizing control of the match in the second period with Luis Iguel and Gregorio Blas on the firing end.

Iguel, who was held to a field goal in the first quarter, nailed 10 points in the second, while Blas chipped in eight to give Corrections a 43-34 halftime advantage.

The lead ballooned to 18 at the end of the third period, 67-49, when fatigued caught ATM players, who walked back to defense, allowing Iguel, Blas and Jeffrey Quitugua to make uncontested fastbreak layups.

Corrections was never threatened in the fourth period, as ATM did not have enough manpower to mount a comeback.

Quitugua was leading Corrections with 21 points when the game was suspended.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Corrections' Daniel Joab,right, drives to the baseline against Autonomous' Steve Rasa during their game in the PTI caging Thursday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

PIC Horseshoe tourney on Sept. 7

The 2008 Pacific Islands Club Horseshoe Tournament returns for the ninth straight season when competition kicks off at 9am on Sept. 7 on the grounds of the San Antonio hotel.

The annual one-day tournament, which will award cash prizes to the Top 3 pairs, will follow a random draw, doubles-team and double-elimination bracket format.

The entrance fee for the tournament is $10 per person, which includes a one-day waterpark pass to all participants.

Two yeas ago, Irma Halaby and Nick Gross bested a record-setting field of 33 other pairs to win the 2006 edition.

Halaby and Gross breezed through the elimination round and the semifinals carrying over their momentum in the finals where they defeated the pair of Randy Steele and Skip Bull, 18-16.

They won $202 with the victory, while Steele and Bull settled for the $100 runner-up prize. Amanda Puleo and Pam Thorpe finished third bringing home $46 after a 12-10 loss to Steele and Bull.

For more information about the 2008 Pacific Islands Club Horseshoe Tournament, call Lindsey, Cole, Sergei, or Glenn at 235-6231 at extensions 5147 or 5148 or email them at seasexec@picsaipan.com or stop by at the SEA office at PIC. ***(PR)***

G-ROLLERS

From Page 28

the G-Rollers I on top in the first half, added nine in the second to keep the G-Rollers record clean.

Matagolai finished with 16 points, while Aurelio chipped in 12.

Trevor Ogumoro topscored for the Kontenders with 16 markers, but he had only five points in the second half. With Ogumoro off in the final 20 minutes of the match, Jester Kaipat was forced to carry the cudgels for the Kontenders, making nine of his 14 points in the second half.

G-Rollers I 63—Matagolai 16, Aurelio 12, Teregeyo 11, Concepcion 9, Babauta , Namelo 2, Paez 2, Ogarto 1, Danas 1.

Kontenders 54—Ogumoro 16, Kaipat 14, Pua 9, Laniyo 5, Nogis 4, Dawe 2, E. Dillay 2, Tagabuel 1.

Scoring by halves: 28-25, 63-54.

Referees: Connie Camacho and Gilbert Espinosa.

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St. Louis	74	61	.548	11
Houston	69	66	.511	16
Cincinnati	59	76	.437	26
Pittsburgh	57	77	.425	27 1/2

West Division

Arizona	69	65	.515	_
Los Angeles	65	70	.481	4 1/2
Colorado	64	72	.471	6
San Francisco	59	75	.440	10
San Diego	51	83	.381	18

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

Tampa Bay	82	51	.617	_
Boston	78	56	.582	4 1/2
New York	72	62	.537	10 1/2
Toronto	68	66	.507	14 1/2
Baltimore	63	71	.470	19 1/2

Central Division

Chicago	76	58	.567	_
Minnesota	76	59	.563	1/2
Cleveland	65	68	.489	10 1/2
Detroit	65	69	.485	11
Kansas City	56	78	.418	20

West Division

Los Angeles	82	52	.612	_
Texas	66	70	.485	17
Oakland	62	73	.459	20 1/2
Seattle	51	83	.381	31

Yesterday's Games

Chicago Cubs 3, Philadelphia 2
Milwaukee 3, Pittsburgh 1
N.Y. Mets 5, Florida 4
Cincinnati 11, San Francisco 7
Washington 7, Atlanta 3
Houston 3, St. Louis 2
Arizona 9, L.A. Dodgers 3
Colorado 9, San Diego 4
N.Y. Yankees 2, Toronto 1
Boston 8, Chicago White Sox 0
Detroit 6, Kansas City 3
Seattle 3, Cleveland 2
Tampa Bay 14, Baltimore 3
Minnesota 12, Oakland 2
L.A. Angels 3, Texas 1

US PGA-DEUTSCHE BANK SCORES

NORTON, Massachusetts (AP) _ Scores Friday from the Deutsche Bank Championship, a $7 million (4.7 million) U.S. PGA Tour playoff at 7,207-yard, par-71 TPC Boston:

FIRST ROUND

Mike Weir	30-31	61
John Merrick	32-32	64
Briny Baird	32-32	64
Heath Slocum	33-31	64
Eric Axley	33-32	65
Ben Curtis	34-31	65
John Mallinger	34-32	66
Tim Clark	34-32	66
Kevin Streelman	36-30	66
Steve Marino	34-32	66
Ernie Els	33-33	66
Jeff Overton	35-31	66
Charlie Wi	33-33	66
Jim Furyk	34-32	66
Ken Duke	33-33	66
Anthony Kim	33-33	66
Charles Howell III	34-32	66
Ryan Moore	35-32	67
Fredrik Jacobson	35-32	67
Brandt Snedeker	35-32	67
Carl Pettersson	36-31	67
Stewart Cink	37-30	67
Sergio Garcia	35-32	67
Tommy Armour III	36-31	67
Charley Hoffman	35-32	67
Richard S. Johnson	35-32	67
Bo Van Pelt	36-31	67
Angel Cabrera	33-34	67
D.J. Trahan	33-34	67
Geoff Ogilvy	33-34	67
Chad Campbell	35-32	67
Jonathan Byrd	35-32	67
Ryan Palmer	34-33	67
Justin Bolli	34-33	67
Brian Gay	35-33	68
Paul Casey	36-32	68
Patrick Sheehan	35-33	68
Johnson Wagner	34-34	68
J.J. Henry	36-32	68
Steve Flesch	36-32	68
Camilo Villegas	37-31	68
Lucas Glover	32-36	68
Jay Williamson	38-30	68
Andres Romero	35-33	68
Jesper Parnevik	34-34	68
Pat Perez	35-34	69
Brett Quigley	35-34	69
Mark Wilson	35-34	69
Steve Stricker	34-35	69
Ryuji Imada	34-35	69
Chez Reavie	36-33	69
Rocco Mediate	36-33	69
Nick O'Hern	33-36	69
Scott McCarron	35-34	69
Tom Pernice, Jr.	36-33	69
John Senden	36-33	69
K.J. Choi	35-34	69
Phil Mickelson	34-35	69
Justin Leonard	38-31	69
Scott Verplank	36-33	69
Bart Bryant	36-33	69
Bill Haas	34-35	69
Ian Poulter	34-36	70
Sean O'Hair	36-34	70
Adam Scott	37-33	70
Boo Weekley	35-35	70
Stuart Appleby	36-34	70
Billy Mayfair	35-35	70
Bubba Watson	37-33	70
Hunter Mahan	35-35	70
Kevin Sutherland	35-35	70
Jason Day	34-36	70
Martin Laird	39-31	70
Rory Sabbatini	36-34	70
Robert Allenby	35-35	70
Mathew Goggin	35-35	70
Brian Davis	35-35	70
Retief Goosen	33-37	70
Tim Petrovic	38-33	71
Corey Pavin	37-34	71
George McNeill	36-35	71
Dean Wilson	37-34	71
Trevor Immelman	35-36	71
Dudley Hart	33-38	71
Stephen Ames	39-32	71
Rod Pampling	38-33	71
Parker McLachlin	35-36	71
Peter Lonard	35-36	71
Matt Kuchar	35-36	71
Michael Allen	35-36	71
Lee Janzen	37-34	71
Tim Herron	36-36	72
Aaron Baddeley	37-35	72
Paul Goydos	36-36	72
Kenny Perry	39-33	72
Woody Austin	38-34	72
Jeff Quinney	39-33	72
Rich Beem	36-36	72
Glen Day	36-36	72
Cliff Kresge	36-36	72
Ben Crane	36-36	72
Steve Elkington	36-36	72
Daniel Chopra	34-39	73
Jerry Kelly	38-35	73
Frank Lickliter II	35-38	73
Nick Watney	37-36	73
John Rollins	38-35	73
Kevin Na	37-37	74
J.B. Holmes	38-36	74
Nicholas Thompson	38-36	74
Fred Couples	37-37	74
Michael Letzig	41-33	74
Padraig Harrington	36-39	75
Steve Lowery	39-36	75

By The Associated Press

LOCAL SCORES

Rotary League Standings

Southern Sonics	**2**	**0**
G-Rollers I	**2**	**0**
Kontenders	**2**	**1**
San Antonio Sixers	**1**	**0**
CNMI Jr. Nationals	**0**	**1**
Suns	**0**	**1**
G-Rollers II	**0**	**2**
G-Stars	**0**	**2**

Federer cruises, Kutznetsova loses at US Open

Roger Federer flicked a final winner, trotted to the net and started to shake hands. Then, there was one last challenge.

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Zobrist hits grand slam as Rays rout Orioles

Ben Zobrist hit a grand slam, Cliff Floyd drove in five runs and the AL East-leading Tampa Bay Rays guaranteed their first-ever winning season with a 14-3 rout of the Baltimore Orioles on Friday night.

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Rock Steady clinches title

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Members and coaches of Rock Steady pose with their trophies after ruling the 2008 Budweiser Saipan Major League baseball title series. Rock Steady beat the Rangers in the deciding Game 5, 5-3, yesterday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Finally, the title series in the 2008 Budweiser Saipan Major League baseball tournament wrapped up with Rock Steady winning the deciding Game 5, 5-3, yesterday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

Rock Steady had enough juice to survive SML's most stretched-out championship series, which took about three weeks to finish due to the rolling power outages.

Winning pitcher and eventual Finals MVP Nick San Nicolas and Rock Steady's defense gave up only one run at the resumption of Game 5 to complete its domination of the 2008 season. Rock Steady was unbeaten in the regular season with a 14-0 record.

Game 5 resumed at the top of the third inning with the Rangers leading at 2-1. But the Joeten Motors-sponsored squad failed to pick up where it left off, scoring only one run in the remaining six-and-a-half innings.

Catcher Robert Bansil scored the Rangers' lone run yesterday on a Ben Benwachi single.

Rock Steady made two runs apiece in the third and fourth inning to grab the driver's seat and hung on to the lead in the last four-and-half innings with its outfielders hustling out for the ball.

Dane Lizama reached homeplate at the bottom of the third on a Jonathan Camacho sacrifice fly, while Roy Celis singled, driving Toi Celis home to put Rock Steady in the lead, 3-2.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Winning pitcher Nick San Nicolas

Rock Steady added two more runs in the fourth with Tyrone Omar and Eric Lizama scoring on Rangers errors.

The Mel Tenorio-managed squad sealed the victory when Eric Lizama caught J.J. Laniyo's fly ball to rightfield at the top of the eighth.

Dane Lizama went 4-for-4 at the plate, while Toi Celis and Omar hit 2-for-4 and 2-for-5, respectively.

Rock Steady had a batting average of .351 after going 13-for-37. The Rangers had more trips at the plate, but went only 11-for-40 for a batting average of .275.

San Nicolas pitched in no relief for Rock Steady, striking out five.

Rock Steady coach Joey Dela Cruz said their defense brought them to the championship. He added that Rangers' errors allowed them to pull off a win.

Rock Steady scored three of its runs on the Rangers passing and fielding miscues.

G-Rollers I hand Kontenders first loss

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The G-Rollers I foiled the Kontenders' bid for three straight wins, notching a 63-54 triumph in their game in the 2008 Saipan Rotary Club Youth Basketball League Thursday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The victory was the G-Rollers I's second in as many games putting them in a tie for first place with the Southern Sonics. The Kontenders had their two-game winning run halted, as they dropped to second place with a 2-1 slate.

The G-Rollers I leaned on their decent three-point shooting to thwart the hard-fighting Kontenders.

The 2006 champions made six triples, including two in the closing minutes of the second half to nail a nine-point win. The Kontenders drilled only two triples, all in the first half.

Brandon Aurelio, who canned five triples in the G-Rollers I's rout of the G-Rollers II, 87-42, was on fire in the first half, connecting on three triples.

But despite the G-Rollers I's hot shooting, the Kontenders managed to keep pace with their foes in the first half. Trevor Ogumoro kept the Kontenders afloat, scoring 11 in the first half, which ended with the G-Rollers leading by only three, 28-25.

Don Teregeyo went scoreless for the G-Rollers I in the first half, but redeemed himself in the second, contributing 11, as he and Manny Matagolai hit timely baskets to foil the Kontenders' repeated comeback bids.

Matagolai, who teamed up with Aurelio in putting

See G-ROLLERS on Page 27

OFF THE BENCH

By BOB COLDEEN
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Coldeen is a longtime journalist in the CNMI and is currently the news director of KSPN2

Rays of hope

The New York Yankees are dead and buried in gold coffins. They are toast. Burnt toast.

If Steinbrenner's mercenaries hope to make the playoffs, they need to take a trip to St. Faustina's tomb at the Shrine of The Divine Mercy and pray for a miracle.

On the other glove, over in the worst stadium in the bigs, Tropicana aka the Can, Tampa Bay is shining brightly. The Can is where I saw Eric Clapton blow away people's minds. Now the Rays are blowing away people's minds.

Who woulda thunk it? What in the wide wide world of sports is going on when TB is over NY in the AL East heading to the stretch?

The Bombers have made the playoffs 13 seasons in a row. The Devil Rays never even sniffed the playoffs in their lousy ten year existence. They have averaged a whopping 34 games behind the AL east divisional leader and never won more than 70 games. Their best season would be the worst for some teams.

Now the Rays in their very first year with a new moniker are positioned for postseason prosperity.

And I know why Tampa Bay is finally doing well. It's simple.

It's not all the top draft picks they got from finishing last every year, young talent who blossomed into stars or the manager Joe Madden, a lock for manager of the year, who has them playing up to their vast potential. It's not the general manager Andrew Friedman who managed to accumulate a pitching staff better than the Yanks. Yep, the Bay have the second best team earned run average in the majors at 3.72 compared to the Pinstripers 19th rated 4.34.

Come on, boys, let's get serious. Who really thought Sydney Ponson would come to rescue Brian Cashman? Perhaps a science fiction writer and I assume Cashman. Ya think the Yankees wish they had Johan Santana now?

But it's not pitching. And it's not A-Rod's flop this season. True, Jose Guillen has driven in more runs than the $250 million man and he is batting .246 with runners in scoring position with 40 hit-into-double-plays. Rally killer is not a nice nickname. But Madonna's friend is otherwise having a fine season with better numbers than any Ray regular.

The reason for TB's turnaround is simple, stemming from 1997 when Tampa Bay was searching for a team name. I actually came up with Rays back then as did others, but Devil Rays was selected instead. Right off, I (along with others) knew that was bad mojo. Using the word devil was an instant curse. Boston and Chicago with the Curse of the Bambino and Curse of the Billy Goat got theirs the old fashioned way: they earned it. Tampa Bay was born cursed. Removing the Devil from the name saved the franchise.

Speaking of curses, didn't Dodger manager Joe Torre hear about Samson and Delilah? Obviously not. After the Red Sox shipped Manny Rameriz to LaLaLand, he tore up the National League with his dreadlocks flying around the bases. Then Torre told Manny to shear his locks. That decision alone caused the Dodgers to go into a tailspin and they won only 4 of their next 12 games. Manny's batting average dropped farther than his hair, two hundred points. Memo to Joe: "Those who fail to learn from history are doomed to repeat it." Manny should have played for Winston Churchill.

The Manny gave the Dodgers good reason for hope. If his hair grows back fast enough, then the Dodgers can still get to the playoffs.

Tampa Bay should reach the playoffs but I have no great expectations, just enjoying the moment. Which reminds me of a quote from Green Bay Packer quarterback Aaron Rodgers, who I am sure got it from somebody: "You'd like to say that yesterday is history, tomorrow is a mystery and today is a gift. That is why they call it the present."

The Rays are the present while the Yankees are history and that should not be a mystery.

Baseball fans, we had an exorcism this year. We got rid of the Devil.